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WITH A SUPPLEMENT,
FIVEPENCE.



G.H.G.

"YOUNG FRANCE," A SKETCH AT VERSAILLES.

A LEASH OF RAILWAY ACCIDENTS.

"A good dividend—with safety, if you can; at hazard, if you cannot—but a good dividend at any risk." We should be very reluctant to charge any board of railway directors with basing their administration on the above maxim. We will not do so, for we cannot think we should be just in doing so; but if what are called accidents, or what we should describe as preventable calamities, each more terrible than its predecessor, continue to tread upon one another's heels as they have done of late, it must not be taken as matter of surprise that the travelling public—and how large a portion of the public does that include!—should attribute the dangers they incur to some such motive. It would not be the right one, we think; for, in the first place, we cannot bring ourselves to the conclusion that any dozen members of the class from which directors are chosen would be so indifferent to the lives and limbs of their fellow-men; and, in the second place, because, even if they were, experience must have taught them that habitual want of care does not pay. But, were we to speak out our whole convictions on the subject, our verdict, we fear, would not be deemed flattering. Corporations, it is said, have no consciences; boards certainly display little sensitiveness, so far as their responsibility to their customers is concerned. Scores of comparatively trivial items of reform, which would impose no expense to speak of, and but little additional trouble upon officers and servants, have been incessantly demanding adoption by railway authorities, but without effect. Scores of trivial injustices, deserving the description of "sharp practice," are perpetrated upon daily passengers by traffic managers and their subordinates, for which it is impossible to obtain the slightest redress. This absence of common attention to the comfort of passengers is very apt to be looked upon as proof of carelessness respecting their safety. The lesser faults are supposed to lead on by imperceptible degrees to the greater; and if railway administration falls, as we think it often does, into worse repute than it deserves, it has chiefly itself to thank for it.

Three railway accidents of greater fatality than usual have occurred within a month—one at Harrow, on the London and North-Western line; one at Brockley Whins, on the North-Eastern line; and one near Barnsley, on the Manchester, Sheffield, and Lincolnshire line. Each caused considerable loss of life—the last greater than that of the two others put together. We need not recapitulate the details of these successive disasters—most of our readers will be familiar with them. They were all due to one leading cause, although in each instance the particular circumstances varied. In the accident at Harrow, the Limited Mail ran into a number of goods trucks which, owing to a fracture of coupling-irons, could not be shunted to a siding in time to leave the main line clear for the express. At Brockley Whins, a goods-train was turned on to a main line, in consequence of a loss of presence of mind by the pointsman, just as a passenger-train was approaching on the same line from an opposite direction. At Barnsley the Abergele accident, happily without the conflagration, was repeated. By some oversight a number of goods trucks got detached during the process of shunting at the top of an incline, and, rolling down with constantly accelerating speed, dashed into a passenger-train at a small station two miles off. In all these cases the deaths and injuries inflicted were of the most frightful character; and in all, we think, as far as evidence has been put before the public, there may be traced a system of arrangement which, with a view to the accommodation of an over-crowded traffic, leaves as little margin as possible for avoidance of collisions.

On crowded lines there will always be a temptation to traffic-managers to insert a goods-train into every interstice between passenger-trains, wherever it can be done without a certainty of accident. The temptation, no doubt, may sometimes be resisted; but, nine times out of ten, risks are steadily faced wherever they can be warded off by clever arrangement and good luck. The arrangements are to be challenged, if at all, for being "too clever by half;" and such, we need not say, presume more upon good luck than ought ever to be done where human life is at stake. For a long season matters go on with mechanical regularity, and experience and habit facilitate the performance, day after day, of critical feats. If we could see a record of all the "narrow escapes" which are achieved, and observe the number of incidents in which locomotive-drivers might testify that they have been within an ace of collision, owing to the mixing up of passenger traffic and luggage traffic on the same lines, we should probably cry out for a change of system lustily enough. A chemist who, from incaution, or from desire to save expense in the conduct of his establishment, gives poison to his customer instead of the harmless drug he may have asked for, seldom escapes a severe penalty. Boards, for the most part, are less careful than individuals. In railway administration, it is true, in case of accident, Lord Campbell's Act inflicts upon careless directors, or, rather, upon the shareholders whom they represent, heavy damages; but, so long as preventable injuries to life and limb can be atoned for by pecuniary fines paid, not by the most but by the least blamable of those whose consideration occasions them, no permanent improvement, we fear, can be confidently looked for.

Safety should be regarded by railway authorities as an indispensable condition of working the lines under their management. Fullness of traffic and speed should

be always made subordinate to it. Nothing really incompatible with the safety of passengers ought to be sanctioned. It is, perhaps, invidious to single out railway directors for censure, as if they alone disregarded this rule. The very laws of our country, and, still more, the ordinary administration of them, throw around property more safeguards than they do around life; and the British public attaches greater importance to going fast than to being secure against accident. Nevertheless, too much stress ought not to be laid upon these general characteristics of English nature. They are apt enough on occasions to avenge themselves. Three such accidents as we have recently had may very likely be followed by stringent railway legislation. Nay, more. Every preventable casualty chips away, if we may so express ourselves, some portion of the disinclination which the public of this generation has exhibited to commit to the hands of Government what it would have much preferred to leave to private enterprise. The day may be nearer at hand than most people imagine when Parliament may find itself compelled to give notice to railway companies that, inasmuch as unrestricted competition in railway affairs has unexpectedly and largely failed, the time has come to transfer the management of them to the responsibility of the Government.

FOREIGN AND COLONIAL NEWS.

ITALY.

The entry of King Victor Emmanuel into Rome has been postponed to the beginning of January.

The Government has introduced several of the measures to which they were pledged in the Chamber of Deputies on Saturday. The most important is a bill defining the guarantees securing the independence and full spiritual authority of the Pope. Other bills refer to the Roman plebiscite for transferring the capital to Rome within eight months, and demanding a credit of 17,000,000 lire to meet expenses. Signor Sella has introduced his Budget for 1871, which shows a deficit of 24,000,000 lire.

AUSTRO-HUNGARY.

Count Beust's reply to Prince Gortschakoff's last note was dispatched on Thursday week. It is couched in a conciliatory tone, and accepts the Russian despatch as calculated to lead to an understanding.

Some particulars regarding the military resources of Austria were given by General Benedek on Tuesday, in reply to questions from members of the Hungarian Delegation. The General stated that the army numbers now 864,869 regular troops and 187,527 landwehr. Since 1867 the artillery has been increased by 378 guns, but a further increase is necessary. The regular army possesses 899,279 breech-loaders, the Austro-landwehr 57,227 muzzle-loading rifles, and the Hungarian landwehr 80,000 of the latter weapons; 15,000 more rifles are required. The General added that the class of men composing the army has greatly improved.

GERMANY.

The German Empire may now be accepted as a fact. In Saturday's sitting of the North German Parliament a bill determining the amendments of the Constitution, necessitated by the introduction of the words "Empire" and "Emperor," was adopted, being read once, twice, and thrice on the same day, and passed at an evening sitting. The final vote was 188 ayes against 6 noes. After this an address to the King, proposed by Herr Lasker, was approved, the Social Democrats again voting against it. A deputation of thirty members was elected to present the address to his Majesty. The Minister von Delbrück then proclaimed the Session to be closed.

The treaties with the southern States had been previously passed all but unanimously. To secure their ratification Count Bismarck had threatened that he would dissolve Parliament or himself resign were they rejected. The Opposition mainly proceeded from the Unity party, who demanded still more centralised institutions, but eventually were induced to accept those offered.

The deputation of the Federal Parliament which is to offer the Imperial crown to King William was to leave Versailles on Tuesday. It is headed by President Simon—the same who, as Speaker of the Frankfurt Parliament of 1848, made the same offer, but in vain, to King William's brother and predecessor.

Another cloud has arisen. Count Bismarck has addressed a circular to the foreign representatives of Germany, in which he formally denounces the treaty of neutrality of Luxembourg contracted in 1867, on the ground that the Government of Luxembourg has disregarded the obligations of neutrality imposed upon it by the treaty. The circular proceeds to specify the passive neglect and active breaches of neutrality alleged against the Government of the duchy. A telegram from Luxembourg says a committee is drawing up a petition of the whole country to the King, protesting against the accusation of the State having violated neutrality. The petition requests the King to maintain the independence, neutrality, traditions, laws, and system of education in Luxembourg.

The Prussian Diet was opened, on Wednesday, with a Speech from the Throne, in which stress was laid upon the patriotic efforts the country had made, and the assurance given that internal reforms would be carried out as soon as peace should be re-established.

In Wednesday's sitting of the Bavarian Chambers of Deputies Count Bray laid before the House the federal treaty. He urged the members to approve the treaty, which would establish a German federative alliance and community, which would be worthy of the sacrifices made by Bavaria in that cause. The Minister of War laid before the House a bill asking for a further extraordinary military credit until the end of March for 41,020,000 florins. The Minister of Finance brought in a bill continuing the provisional levy of the taxes for a further three months.

The Baden Chambers were opened on Tuesday. The Speech from the Throne declares that it will be the task of the Diet to give validity in Baden to the new federal treaties.

RUSSIA.

An Imperial ukase has appeared at St. Petersburg which orders that recruiting for the Russian army on the new plan is to begin in February and end in March, and is to be conducted with all speed. Six recruits are to be taken per thousand souls, and one and a half per thousand, besides, in the western provinces, to fill former deficiencies. All young men under twenty-one years of age, students in the higher Government academies, and teachers of primary schools in Poland, are exempt. The sum of money for which exemption may be purchased is 570 roubles.

AMERICA.

The Senate has ratified the treaty with Sweden and Norway relative to emigration. A resolution has been introduced giving the President a discretionary power to suspend the laws permitting the carriage of goods in bond over territory of the United States to the British American possessions. The resolution has been referred to the Committee on Commerce.

The House of Representatives, by 158 votes against 23, has repealed the Civil Tenure of Office Act; and, by 161 votes against 5, passed a resolution repealing the international revenue system, except as regards whisky and tobacco.

Congress will adjourn, on the 22nd inst., to Jan. 4.

Mr. Gaston (Democrat) has been elected Mayor of Boston.

Governor Walker, in his message to the Virginia Legislature, urges prompt legislation to secure the early restoration of the State credit. He recommends the funding of the entire State debt, principal and interest, in new bonds, to be dated July 1, 1871. The first coupons to be made payable in January, 1872. He also advises that efforts be made to secure the removal of the Federal tax.

The *Times*' correspondent at Philadelphia remarks that while the recent violent speech of General Butler has attracted profound and general attention, it should be known abroad that the very extended comments made by the American press are, with scarcely an exception, unfavourable to the warlike doctrines expressed. The American people are unwilling to be forced into a war with England, and they would decidedly object to the non-intercourse suggestion.

A negro riot has occurred at Atlanta, Georgia, in which six persons were killed and forty wounded.

Professor Porter, of Yale College, estimates that there are now 100,000 Chinese in the United States.

Californian advices mention that on the 17th ult. the first ton of perfectly crystallised sugar from beets grown in that State was produced.

Cholera prevails in an epidemic form at Bagdad.

The censorship has been abolished in Serbia, and a new press law has been promulgated.

M. Malou, the Belgian Minister of State, has tendered his resignation, which has been accepted.

The Empress of Russia reached Sebastopol, from Livadia, on the 3rd inst. She embarked in the Tiger for Odessa, and arrived there after a short passage, whence she proceeded by rail to the capital on the 5th.

Alexandre Dumas, senior, the author of the "Mousquetaires" and "Monte Christo," and countless other novels, died last Saturday, at his son's house at Le Puy, a village on the seacoast within gunshot of the pier at Dieppe.

The preliminary judicial inquiry, at Athens, into the murder of Englishmen by brigands has closed. M. Noel, an Englishman domiciled at Negropont, and sixty shepherds are committed for trial. All the others are discharged.

The resignation of M. Roest van Limburg, the Minister for Foreign Affairs at the Hague, has been accepted, and General Van Mulken, the Minister of War, takes charge of the Foreign Office ad interim.

An examination of knapsacks found on the field shows that the Prussian soldiers carry about with them an extraordinary number of letters, most of them from their sweethearts or wives, full of touching prayers and hopes for the husband or lover's safe return, and fears that at the best the Christmas family circle must this year miss him.

The Postmaster-General of the United States, in his forthcoming annual report, it is understood, will urge the adoption by the United States of the postal cards now in use in England and Germany. He will also urge Congress to abolish the franking privilege, the heavy expense of which now prevents the Post Office Department from being self-sustaining.

The Duke of Saxe-Coburg, writing from Versailles to his Duchess about the great sortie, says:—"The wind being north-east, we had here, in Versailles, the pleasure, during three twenty-four hours, of hearing every shot in the whole thirty miles circumference of Paris; and one night I counted 107 shots in five minutes. The sky at night was illuminated as if by fireworks, and bombs and grenades flew like rockets in all directions."

THE WAR.

The German army operating on the Loire to cover the siege of Paris took possession of the town of Blois, more than half way from Orleans to Tours, on Tuesday last. Some of their troops had appeared on Sunday in the suburbs on the north bank of the river, and had summoned the town to surrender, which was refused, M. Gambetta then being there. This part of the army, extending itself to the west, is under command of the Grand Duke of Mecklenburg. The French Army of the Loire, now under General Chanzy, had previously sustained four successive days' fighting near Beaugency, which is on the Loire between Orleans and Blois. It began on Wednesday week, and was continued till Saturday, after which the French General retired on Bourges, about sixty or seventy miles further south, where he was to be joined by M. Gambetta, member of the Provisional Government for National Defence. The seat of that branch of the Government has been removed from Tours to Bourdeaux.

No change has taken place in the positions of the Prussian and French armies at Paris; the bombardment is still delayed for strategical considerations. The supplies of fresh meat, except horseflesh, within the city are thought to be nearly exhausted.

In the north of France the Prussians have actually reached the shores of the British Channel. A column of General Manteuffel's troops entered Dieppe on Friday week, but left next day, after making requisitions of various commodities from the town, and taking as much as they could. They went along the coast to Fécamp, but have since withdrawn from that part. The Prussians are, however, in force at Beuzeville, about sixteen miles from Havre, and have made feints of an attack on Honfleur. But Havre is supposed to be strong enough, with gun-boats in support, to hold its own against any rapid attack. A Prussian detachment at Ham, in Picardy, was surprised and captured at the end of last week. The French at Lille, under General Faidherbe, seem likely to do something. They have recaptured La Fère, an important railway junction, with 800 prisoners and many store-waggons. It is doubtful whether the Prussians will attempt to go much further than Abbeville in that direction. Several minor conflicts have taken place.

The surrender of Phalsbourg, in the Vosges, Lower Lorraine, with its garrison of 2000 men, on Monday, has been followed by that of Montmédy, on the Belgian-Luxemburg frontier, which was occupied by the Prussians on Wednesday last. It is believed that Garibaldi is still near Autun, but his movements are not now important.

FROM INSIDE PARIS.

(BY BALLOON POST.)

ELEVENTH WEEK OF THE SIEGE.

(From our Special Correspondent.)

Monday, Nov. 28.—The excitement in Paris has been intense throughout the day, with columns of troops incessantly marching along the principal thoroughfares, and batteries upon batteries of our new heavy artillery moving towards the southern and south-eastern sides of the city, indicating that the great sortie, the preparations for which commenced yesterday, may now be regarded as imminent. Since Saturday night all the city gates just within the drawbridges have been closed pursuant to notice, and directions issued to permit no one unprovided with a special order from head-quarters to pass without the walls, the object being to prevent the exit of spies, who might convey information to the Prussian posts of the movement of troops inside the city. Last night the forts opened a brisk cannonade, and some unimportant skirmishing took place with the enemy in advance of the wished-for French lines; and people thought they saw therein the beginning of the end. To-day, however, the forts remained silent, and what the troops were about no one knew, as the newspapers had been forbidden, under pain of suppression, to make any mention of military movements, or to publish any but the official bulletins of whatever engagements might take place. In the course of the evening the walls were covered with proclamations, one of which, from General Trochu, called upon Paris to make a supreme effort, and threw all "the responsibility of the blood about to be shed upon those whose detestable ambition tramples under foot the principles of justice and modern civilisation." There was a second proclamation, signed by the remaining members of the Government of National Defence; and a third, emanating from General Ducrot, in which he told the troops under his command that, composed of an attacking force of 150,000 men, well armed, equipped, and provided with ammunition, and supported by 400 guns of heavy calibre, which it would be difficult for the enemy to resist, they were about to fight for "honour, liberty, and the salvation of our dear and unhappy country, and if such a motive as this suffices not to influence you, think," observes he, "of your devastated fields, your ruined families, and of your sisters, wives, and mothers who are desolate. . . . As for me, I am resolved, and I swear it before you and before the whole nation, I shall only re-enter Paris dead or victorious. You may see me fall, but you shall not see me retreat."

Tuesday, Nov. 29.—It was somewhere about midnight that the forts generally, aided by the advanced redoubts and the gun-boats on the Seine, opened fire, and, with the exception of an interval of about a couple of hours to allow the guns to cool, the cannonade went on uninterruptedly till daybreak, when the field-pieces commenced to join in, and Paris, kept awake by excitement or the roar of the artillery, was astir, eager to learn whether success had already attended the French arms. All that could be ascertained, however, was that the troops had advanced as soon as it was light against the Prussian positions at Choisy-le-Roi, L'Hay, and Chevilly. Considerable crowds assembled in the neighbourhood of all the gates, on the south side of Paris, but it was at the Avenue d'Italie where there was the greatest throng. Numerous reserve ambulance carriages, besides vehicles of all descriptions which had been pressed into the service for this particular occasion, were in waiting inside the walls, and every now and then some wounded soldiers were driven slowly past. The least suffering among them were eagerly interrogated, but only the most contradictory intelligence could be obtained. It had been reported that the French had recaptured Choisy and L'Hay, then it was said that the Prussians had retaken these positions, but not before the French had spiked the thirty guns they found there. The next moment this was contradicted, and it was asserted that the Prussians had themselves spiked the guns in question. It was very evident nothing particular had been accomplished towards cutting a way through the Prussian lines, still, as usual, the wildest rumours prevailed in the neighbourhood of the Boulevards and the Bourse. Among the least sanguine, however, the opinion was general that we had met with some sort of success, and Rentes had certainly advanced at the time the Bourse closed. Eventually it transpired that, although we had sustained no actual reverse, we had met with a check on all points but one—namely, the attack against Gare-aux-boeufs, directed by Admiral Pothuon, and that the main operation of all which it had been proposed to effect had failed owing to a rise in the waters of the Marne having impeded the passage of the troops under the command of General Ducrot. In the evening the Boulevards were, of course, crowded, and everyone wore a disappointed air, which was not removed by such poor comfort as they got from a Government notice calling upon the Parisians not to be alarmed, to pay no heed to alarming reports, and to bear in mind that the famous plan of General Trochu involved alike false attacks and retreats.

Wednesday, Nov. 30.—The forts again opened fire about an hour after midnight, and at daybreak again a fresh attack was commenced against the Prussian lines. The Parisians were sufficiently downcast this morning, and did not throng in such numbers as yesterday to the city gates to learn the earliest news of their successes. Still, as the day wore on, the rumours that circulated throughout Paris were invariably favourable, and by nightfall it was everywhere reported that the day had been crowned by a great French victory. General Ducrot had this time crossed the Marne, it was said, and occupied Montmelis at noon. With his lines deployed so as to press round Villers-sur-Marne while facing towards Brie and Champigny, he succeeded in capturing the high ground which dominates Villers, and in planting his artillery on the summit of the ridge; and, although exposed to the fire from some formidable German works, the French maintained their positions until the close of the day, and, moreover, encamped there during the night. In the course of this engagement General Ducrot brought into action—with deadly effect, it is said—Cail's armour-plated locomotive, furnished with two powerful mitrailleuses, likewise protected with armour, which had been originally intended to be planted on the lofty railway bridge at Point du Jour, where it was to shower bullets on the heights of Meudon.

Thursday, Dec. 1.—There was a great rush for the *Journal Officiel* of this morning, to ascertain how far the rumours in circulation yesterday evening were borne out by the military report which it was anticipated the Government would publish. The report, however, that was issued confined itself to the operations of the day preceding. It appeared from it that Admiral Pothuon's attack against Gare-aux-boeufs had completely succeeded, the position having been carried before dawn, by marching companies of the 106th and 116th battalions of the National Guard and some companies of marine riflemen, when a few prisoners, among whom was one officer, was taken. The attack directed against L'Hay, by the troops

under the command of General Vinoy, was not so successful, the French having only succeeded in penetrating the first line of defence. Not a word was said in the report respecting the operations which had been confided to General Ducrot on the opposite side of the Marne. The *Paris Journal* asserts that one result of yesterday's engagements was to add five days' rations of fresh meat to the food supply of the capital, upwards of a thousand dead horses having been found in the lines carried by the French troops, while their own loss of horses was not more than a third of that number.

Friday, Dec. 2.—Before daybreak this morning the Prussians, with enormous forces, attacked the positions which the French had held since the evening of the 30th, and for upwards of eight hours the battle raged with unabated fury. The French were said to have taken the Prussian positions, and to have made preparations for bivouacing there for the night. The losses on both sides are believed to have been considerable, for both armies fought with great determination, although some of the younger French troops are reported to have wavered a little. This was at once checked, however, by their officers, who freely exposed themselves, and frequently rushed forward in advance of their men with the view of encouraging them. Both Generals Trochu and Ducrot are admitted to have fought with great gallantry—the latter, according to all accounts, having headed a charge and engaged in a hand-to-hand combat with a Prussian officer.

Saturday, Dec. 3.—There was no fighting to-day; but whether the respite was owing to the rain or to the necessity for burying the dead is unknown. Some of the papers are inquiring how it was that ex-Major Flourens did not show at the front in the late engagements, and where the artillery of the National Guard was on the same occasions. It is stated that individuals who attempted to leave the city while the gates were closed, prior to the recent sorties, on being searched were found to have different newspapers secreted on their persons, which they evidently intended carrying to the Prussian lines; and several journals assert that three women of loose character, who were believed to have regularly furnished information to the enemy, had been shot, by order of one of the Generals in command. The cafés and shops generally are now exclusively lighted with either oil or candles. The rations for the present week have been like those of the week preceding—consisting half of salt provisions and half of fresh. Although the sortie cannot be said to have succeeded, there is nothing like despondency. It is considered that the French troops are holding their ground with the view to a renewed effort, which may prove successful.

WEEKLY RETURN OF BIRTHS AND DEATHS.

The Registrar-General gives the following return of births and deaths in London and in nineteen other large towns of the United Kingdom during the week ending Dec. 10:—

In London the births of 1922 children—975 boys and 947 girls—were registered last week. The deaths registered in the same time were 1586. During the corresponding weeks of ten previous years the registered births averaged 1958 and the deaths 1509 per week; after making due allowance for increase of population, the average for the past week is estimated at 2154 births and 1660 deaths; the registered births, therefore, were 232, and the deaths 74, below the estimated average. Zymotic diseases caused 379 deaths, including 61 from smallpox, 27 from measles, 116 from scarlet fever, 7 from diphtheria, 17 from croup, 32 from whooping-cough, 12 from typhus, 26 from enteric (or typhoid) fever, 16 from simple continued fever, 15 from erysipelas, and 13 from diarrhoea. Smallpox was last week more than maintained at the high rate of the week preceding. Sixty-five deaths resulted from violence; of these 57 were accidental, including 16 by fractures, 15 by burns or scalds, 2 by drowning, and 17 by suffocation. A butcher's son, aged four years, died, on the 26th ult., of "irritation of brain from drinking brandy." Six suicides were registered. Five fatal accidents caused by horses and vehicles in the streets were returned last week.

During the week ending Saturday last, 4477 births and 3676 deaths were registered in London and nineteen other large cities and towns of the United Kingdom; and the aggregate mortality of the week was in the ratio of 27 deaths annually to every 1000 of the present estimated population.

In Vienna the annual rate of mortality during the week ending the 8th inst. was 27 per 1000. In the city of Bombay the deaths registered during the two weeks ending Nov. 8 and 15 were respectively 302 and 266 (exclusive of still-born), and the mortality was at the annual rate of 19 and 17 per 1000. In the city of New York the deaths in the week ending Nov. 5 were 422, and in the week ending Nov. 12 they were 422, the equivalent annual rate of mortality being 24 per 1000.

Yesterday week the Smithfield Club Cattle Show was brought to a close. The total number of visitors this year has been 103,643, a decrease of about 6000 as compared with the returns of 1869.

The Town Council of Bradford, on Tuesday, agreed to purchase the undertaking of the local gas company for the sum of £210,000, which is equal to a payment of £95 for each original £25 share.

The Cambridge local examinations commenced all over the country on Tuesday. At nineteen of the places the examination is for girls as well as boys, and at one (Birmingham) for girls only. The whole number (boys and girls together) under examination is 2600. Forty-two gentlemen are engaged in directing the examinations at the several centres, and thirty-two will be employed in looking over the answers.

A most interesting correspondence, to which the Earl of Powis, as President of the Smithfield Club, alluded at the general meeting, has been handed us by Mr. Brandreth Gibbs, the honorary secretary. The subject of the letters is a generous proposition by Mr. James Howard, M.P., that cereals, roots, and other seeds required by the French farmers and peasants who have been ruined in the course of the war shall be supplied by agriculturists in this country. M. Drouyn de Lhuys, President of the Society of Agriculturists of France, having communicated, from his retreat on the island of Jersey, with the Minister of the Interior in the Provisional Government of France, and having obtained a ready assent, has addressed Lord Powis, hoping through him, and the aid of the press, to reach the sympathies of all English farmers. To Mr. Howard, whose state of health at the present time prevents his taking any part in carrying out his benevolent design, M. Drouyn de Lhuys, with earnest eloquence, says:—"I think, as you say, that such a measure would have the effect of developing the sentiments of goodwill which unite our two countries. Like the good earth itself, cultivators are grateful, and your countrymen may rest assured that they will not have sown in a barren soil." Mr. Brandreth Gibbs has expressed his willingness to keep a register of all offers of seeds that may be made; and arrangements for a public meeting early next week are now in progress.

NATIONAL SPORTS.

Frost and snow have already interfered seriously with racing and coursing; and though the first day at Kingsbury was decidedly successful, the adjournment to last Saturday proved a complete failure; and the plating which has taken place at Bromley this week needs no comment. Owners of studs continue to weed them rigorously; but it is no easy matter to get rid of moderate animals at this time of year, when purchasers have to pay for a long winter's keep, without the prospect of any immediate return for their money. A large draught from Fyfield was sent up to Albert Gate on Monday last. Nuneaton, a two-year-old, who won a race at Kingsbury last week, made 200 gs., and Walter, who was a fair colt last year, just half that sum; but Moslem and Blue Bell were bought in. After the Fyfield horses were disposed of, Dalby, the winner of two Chester Cups, was sent up, but no reasonable bid could be obtained for him; and the speedy Ptarmigan, on whom we believe a reserve of 800 gs. was placed, failed to find a purchaser.

Twenty-six greyhound saplings, bred by Mr. W. H. Clark, the well-known Yorkshire coursing, were sold by auction, at Aldridge's, on Saturday last. They averaged about £24 apiece, the highest-priced one being a brindled dog by Patent—Trovatore, who went to Mr. Punched for £47 5s. That gentleman was a very large buyer, as he took seven lots at an average of about £32, and altogether the sale was highly successful.

The London Athletic Club's annual assault of arms took place last week with unusual éclat before a very large and appreciative company. One of the great features of the evening was the sparring of Mr. H. J. Chinnery, the amateur boxing champion, and Donnelly, the well-known instructor. They had two or three smart rounds, in which the honours were very evenly divided. Mr. Joyce, another member of the L. A. C., who sparred later in the evening, is one of the best light-weight amateurs we have seen for some time. He is immensely quick, and possesses unusual punishing powers. The wrestling, in which Lieutenant Edmunds of the London Rifle Brigade and three clever professionals took part, was also greatly appreciated. They had several bouts in the Cumberland and Westmorland fashion, and then illustrations of the French style were given. Mr. Dibbs, of the Life Guards, showed himself a complete master of the Indian clubs; and Messrs. Rogers and Nunn had a very merry bout with quarterstaffs. The annual dinner of the club took place on Monday last, when between thirty and forty sat down.

LAW AND POLICE.

Mr. Serjeant Tindall Atkinson has been appointed by the Lord Chancellor to succeed to the county court judgeship in North Wales vacated by Mr. Johns.

An action was tried in the Court of Exchequer, on Wednesday, in which the London and Brighton Railway Company was sued by a Mr. Slack, who claimed damages for assault and false imprisonment. The plaintiff, having been unable to proceed to his destination by the train for which he had booked, desired to retain his ticket as evidence of breach of contract on the part of the company. He was, however, dragged from one of the carriages by the officials, thrown upon his back, and afterwards taken to a police station. It was contended for the company that, inasmuch as its officers had no instructions to act as they did, the directors were not responsible; but Mr. Baron Martin held a contrary opinion, as the servants committed the acts complained of in the course of their employment. The jury returned a verdict for the plaintiff—damages, five guineas.

Mr. Straight, member for Shrewsbury, whose return had been petitioned against on the usual grounds, has been declared duly elected. Mr. Baron Channell held that the case had wholly failed, not only as against Mr. Straight, but as against his agents also, and ordered the petitioners to pay the costs.—The promoters of the Norwich election petition have given notice that they do not intend to claim the seat for Mr. Huddleston, Q.C.

A gentleman named Smallbones, residing at Whitechurch, near Southampton, having been assessed in a sum of 4s. 3d. as a church rate, refused to pay it on the ground that it had been illegally made. The question came before the Court of Arches, when Mr. Smallbones was ordered to pay the rate, with costs. The Judicial Committee of the Privy Council has reversed this decision, and the churchwardens are to pay the costs in both courts.

An action to recover damages against the North London Railway Company was tried in the Court of Common Pleas, Guildhall, last Saturday, and ended in a verdict for the defendants. Chief Justice Bovill, in expressing his concurrence, remarked that during the late sittings at Westminster four or five railway actions were tried, and in every case the verdict was for the company.

A breach of promise case was tried, last Saturday, at the Court of Exchequer, in which the defendant put in the curious plea—curious, that is, considering that he has married another lady—that "a reasonable time for the marriage with plaintiff had not elapsed." The acquaintance began in 1859, when the plaintiff was nineteen, and continued until July, 1869, when defendant married. The jury gave a verdict for plaintiff—damages, £150.

Joseph Parker, a butcher, of Bridport, has been fined £13, by Alderman Sir J. C. Lawrence, for having sent eight quarters of diseased beef to the London market.

The December sessions of the Central Criminal Court opened on Monday. The calendar was unusually light. Amongst the trials was that of Jowett and Palmer, charged with churchbreaking. They were found guilty, and sentenced to seven years' penal servitude. A strange case of bigamy was tried. Fanny Reeve, a good-looking woman, only twenty-six years of age, was married to a Mr. Reeve in 1863, and in 1867 she contracted another marriage with a gentleman named Blackmore. For this she was tried, in June, 1868, at the Central Criminal Court, convicted, and sentenced to nine months' imprisonment. This severed her connection with Blackmore, and in June last she was married again to a gentleman named Wood. Her defence now was that she believed Reeve to be dead. No evidence on this point, however, was forthcoming, and she was found guilty. It was stated in court that she had also married, in the previous January, a person named Mills. She was sentenced to twelve months' hard labour.—On Wednesday a shoemaker, named Mead, was convicted of having unlawfully wounded his wife, and sentenced to five years' penal servitude. Edward Searey was found guilty of manslaughter, and the Judge ordered him to be kept in penal servitude for ten years.

A revenue return shows that in the financial year 1869-70 there were 146,049,640 penny stamps issued by the Inland Revenue Department, producing a revenue of £608,540. The number was 4,000,000 more than in the preceding year.



PRISONERS OF THE FRENCH IMPERIAL GUARD FROM METZ.



CASTING THE ELECTRIC LIGHT OVER PARIS.



PRIZE FOWLS, DUCKS, AND PIGEONS AT THE CRYSTAL PALACE POULTRY SHOW.

BIRTHS.

On the 9th inst., at Villa Biletta, Moncalieri, Italy, the wife of the Chevalier Biletta, of a son.

On Oct. 30, at Salem, Madras, the wife of Major A. F. F. Bloomfield, Staff Corps, of a son.

MARRIAGES.

On the 3rd ult., at Ottawa, Canada, Harold Arthur Dillon, Rifle Brigade, eldest son of the Hon. Arthur Dillon, to Julia Stanton, eldest daughter of J. B. Stanton, Esq., Civil service, Canada.

On Guy Fawkes' Day, at Point de Galle, Ceylon, by the Rev. Dr. Schrader, Edward Decket Creasy to Mary Latham Lloyd.

On the 15th inst., at St. George's Bloomsbury, by the Rev. J. Mould, M.A., Incumbent of Woburn Episcopal Chapel, Ernest, son of C. Watson, Esq., of Roslyn House, Barnsbury, to Mary Amelia Heath, daughter of John C. D. Bevan, of Bexley-road, Erith, Kent. No cards.

DEATHS.

On the 7th inst., at Henfield, Sussex, Isabella, wife of Thomas Davidson, Esq.

On the 12th inst., at Sand Hutton, near York, the Right Hon. Beaumont, Lord Hotham.

On the 8th inst., at Fulwood Park, Liverpool, Helen, eldest daughter of Hugh and Emily Perkins, aged 9 years.

* * * The charge for the insertion of Births, Marriages, and Deaths is Five Shillings for each announcement.

CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK ENDING DECEMBER 24.

SUNDAY, Dec. 18.—Fourth Sunday in Advent. Divine Service: St. Paul's Cathedral, 10.30 a.m.; the Rev. Prebendary Thomas F. Stooks, M.A.; 3.15, the Rev. Canon Robert Gregory, M.A., Rector of St. Mary-the-Less, Lambeth. Chapels Royal, St. James's, morning, the Rev. George Prothero, M.A., Canon of Westminster; Savoy, 11.30, the Rev. Henry White, M.A., Chaplain of the Savoy and of the House of Commons; 7 p.m., the Rev. E. C. Hawkins, M.A., Assistant Chaplain of the Chapel Royal, Whitehall.

MONDAY, 19.—Joseph M. W. Turner, landscape-painter, died, 1851. Meetings: London Institution Lecture, 4 p.m. (Professor Odling on Chemical Action); Institute of Actuaries, 7 p.m.; Royal Institute of British Architects, 8 p.m.; Society of Arts, Cantor Lecture, 8 p.m. (Mr. Barff on Artists' Colours); Medical Society, 8 p.m.

TUESDAY, 20.—The Royal Microscopical Society established, Professor Owen first president, 1839. Meetings: Anthropological Society, 8 p.m.; Statistical Society, 7.45 p.m.; Civil Engineers' Institution (anniversary), 8 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, 21.—St. Thomas the Apostle. Shortest day. Winter quarter. Election of Common Council of the city of London. Meetings: Royal Horticultural Society, fruit and floral, 11 a.m.; scientific, 1.30 p.m.; general, 3 p.m.; Geological Society, 8 p.m.; Royal Society of Literature, 8.30 p.m.; Society of Arts, 8 p.m. (Mr. Silber on Lighting by Oils); Royal School of Mines Lecture, 8 p.m. (Professor Frankland on Chemistry).

THURSDAY, 22.—Protestant League of Smalcald formed against the Emperor, 1530. New moon, 0.19 p.m. Total eclipse of the sun, partially visible at Greenwich, 11.8 a.m. to 1.42 p.m. Meetings: Philosophical Club, 6 p.m.; Royal Society, 8.30 p.m.

FRIDAY, 23.—St. Victoria, virgin and martyr. Sir Charles Eastlake, president of the Royal Academy, died, 1865. Meeting: Quekett Microscopical Club, 8 p.m.

SATURDAY, 24.—Peace of Ghent, between Great Britain and the United States signed, 1814. George I., King of Greece, born, 1845. Royal Horticultural Society (promenade), 2 p.m.

TIMES OF HIGH WATER AT LONDON BRIDGE

FOR THE WEEK ENDING DECEMBER 24.

Sunday.	Monday.	Tuesday.	Wednesday.	Thursday.	Friday.	Saturday.
h m	h m	h m	h m	h m	h m	h m
9 45	10 20	10 51	11 26	11 56	—	h m
h m	h m	h m	h m	h m	h m	h m
9 45	10 20	10 51	11 26	11 56	—	h m

THE WEATHER.

RESULTS OF METEOROLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS AT THE

KEW OBSERVATORY OF THE BRITISH ASSOCIATION.

Lat. 51° 28' 6" N.; Long. 0° 18' 47" W.; Height above Sea, 34 feet.

DAY.	DAILY MEANS OF					THERMOM.		WIND.		
	Barometer Corrected.	Temperature of the Air.	Dew Point.	Relative Humidity.	Amount of Cloud.	Minimum, read at 10 A.M.	Maximum, read at 10 P.M.	General Direction.	Movement in 24 hours, read at 10 A.M. next morning.	Rain in 24 hours, read at 10 A.M. next morning.
Dec. 7	29.694	35.0	28.8	80	0-10	33.0	36.5	N.	254	.009
8	29.699	30.0	26.2	87	9	24.8	32.0	NNW. N.	133	.070*
9	29.794	32.3	31.0	95	10	27.0	33.8	W. NNW.	101	.045*
10	29.948	34.6	33.5	96	10	50.7	35.4	NNE.	140	.000
11	..	..	..	..	..	32.9	39.3	E. SE.	294	.330
12	29.312	43.4	41.3	93	6	32.0	48.0	SSE. W. SSW.	375	.020
13	29.458	47.1	46.0	96	10	40.1	48.9	SSW. S. SSE.	340	.480

* Melted snow.

The following are the readings of the meteorological instruments for the above days, in order, at ten a.m.:

Barometer (in inches) corrected	29.729	29.696	29.746	29.973	29.939	29.945	29.509
Temperature of Air	35.2	32.3	32.3	35.0	36.8	41.5	48.4
Temperature of Evaporation	33.0	28.6	31.9	31.2	36.0	41.0	47.6
Direction of Wind	N.	NNW	W.	NNE.	E.	SSE.	SSW.

NEW POSTAL TARIFF.

Subscribers to the ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS can now be supplied by post, direct from the Office, 193, Strand, W.C., at the reduced rate of £1 5s. 8d. per annum, or 6s. 5d. per quarter, to be paid in advance. This subscription will cover the ordinary Double Numbers and the special Christmas Supplements.

Post-Office Orders should be made payable to the Publisher.

The Subscription for Copies which are to be sent Abroad varies according to the amount required for their transmission.

The ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS can be obtained at any of the Railway Bookstalls in England and Wales for 5d. each single Number. Notice of any difficulty in buying the paper at this price should be sent to the Publisher, 193, Strand, W.C.

THE INSTITUTE OF PAINTERS IN WATER COLOURS OPEN their FIFTH WINTER EXHIBITION, on MONDAY, the 19th inst., at their GALLERY, 53, Pall-mall.

EXHIBITION OF WATER-COLOUR PAINTINGS at the NEW BRITISH INSTITUTION, 39, Old Bond-street—also including the Works by Royal Artists from the War Relief Exhibition—is now open. Gas at Dusk. T. J. GULLICK, Hon. Sec.

DORÉ GALLERY.—GUSTAVE DORÉ, 35, New Bond-street. EXHIBITION OF PICTURES, including CHRISTIAN MARTYRS, MONASTERY, FRANCE CA DE RIMINI, TITANIA, &c., at the New Gallery. Open Ten to Six. Gas at Dusk. Admission, 1s.

THE COAST OF NORWAY. An Exhibition of Drawings and Paintings, by ELLSAH WALTON, including "The Midnight Sun."—PALL-MALL GALLERY, 49, Pall-mall (Mr. W. M. Thompson's). Admission, with Catalogue, 1s. Ten till Dusk.

THE SOCIETY OF PAINTERS IN WATER COLOURS. THE NINTH ANNUAL WINTER EXHIBITION OF SKETCHES AND STUDIES by the MEMBERS is now OPEN at their Gallery, 5, Pall-mall East. Ten till Five. Admission 1s. Gas on dark days. ALFRED D. FRIPP, Secretary.

SACRED HARMONIC SOCIETY, EXETER HALL. Conductor, Sir Michael Costa.—FRIDAY NEXT, DEC. 23, the Annual Christmas performance of Handel's MESSIAH. Principal vocalists, Madame Signor, Madame Viorlet Garcia, Mr. Vernon Rigby, and Signor Foli. Tick. 3s, 5s, and 10s. 6d. Post-office Orders payable to JAMES PECK.

THE CHRISTMAS DOUBLE NUMBER OF THE ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS FOR 1870,

TO BE ISSUED ON DECEMBER 24,

WILL CONSIST OF

A COLOURED ILLUSTRATION,

"Ladybird, Ladybird, Fly Away Home!"

FROM A PAINTING BY MRS. ANDERSON,

AND

FORTY PAGES OF ENGRAVINGS AND LITERATURE.

ILLUSTRATIONS.

A Vision of the Departing Year. By E. J. Poynter, A.R.A. (Two pages.)

Gathering for the Pantomime. By Alfred Crowquill.

"A Merry Christmas to You!" By A. Hunt.

Christmas Morning in the Olden Time. By G. H. Boughton.

The Family Pew. By E. Hughes.

Lowther Arcade at Christmas Time. By C. J. Staniland.

Christmas in Australia. Two Illustrations. By W. Ralston.

A Christmas Visitor. By H. Petherick.

The British Navy—The Past. By S. P. Jackson.

The British Navy—The Present. By E. Weedon.

Carving Crosses for Pilgrims at Bethlehem. By W. J. Webb.

French Shepherds going to Christmas Midnight Mass.

By J. C. Thom.

Two Illustrations of the Tale, "The Death-Ship of Trescat Cove." By F. Barnard.

Cared for.

Uncared for.

A Prisoner of War.

Pour les Blessés—A Scene at Lyons.

PROSE, VERSE, AND MUSIC.

The Death-Ship of Trescat Cove. A Tale. By E. Lynn

Linton.

Ladybird. By Shirley Brooks.

The Miller and His Man. A Drawing-room Extravaganza for

Christmas Time. By F. C. Burnand. With Songs set

to Music by Arthur S. Sullivan.

Christmas on the Australian Gold-Fields. Sailor Bob's Yarn.

By R. H. Horne.

A Dream of Chancery. By Roger Acton.

Past and Present of the British Navy. By W. S. L.

A Batch of Charades in Verse. By John Lathey.

Sketches and Essays.

Price of the Christmas Double Number—consisting of the Coloured Picture and Two Sheets and a Half of Illustrations, Literary Articles, and News—One Shilling.

Free by post in the United Kingdom, 12½d.

Office—193, Strand, W.C.

NOTICE TO ADVERTISERS.—Advertisements for the Christmas Number must be sent in before six o'clock on MONDAY Evening next, Dec. 19. The lowest charge for an Advertisement—not exceeding four lines (about thirty words)—in the Christmas Number will be Twelve Shillings; and for every additional line (averaging ten words) the charge will be Three Shillings.

TO CAPITALISTS, COLONISATION AGENTS, or

ENTERPRISING FARMERS.

TO BE SOLD, AN ESTATE IN SPAIN, consisting of 23,697 acres of Waste and Meadow Land, of which 10,682 acres are deemed available for Agricultural purposes. The whole of the land is in the water-shed of the Guadiana river; is approached by railway from Madrid, via Manzanares to Ciudad Real, and thence by road for a distance of about 30 miles, and may briefly be described as consisting of two large valleys of a lower mountain, ranging towards the Toledo mountains. Wheat, maize, flax, barley, and all the cereal crops are found to ripen on the property to perfection. Several streams that issue from beneath the mountain ranges give forth a constant volume of good water, and the flow is never appreciably impeded during the driest weather. The larger of the two valleys especially possesses pre-eminent advantages for rearing almost all kinds of young stock, either for farm or road purposes; for there is ample herbage land, good water, and extensive runs for the various kinds of animals destined for distant markets. The celebrated phosphate of lime of the Logrosan mines, which are close by, would be available for manure. Price £2000 for cash, or £12,050 if paid by instalments. The estate has been carefully surveyed by an English Engineer, whose Report (printed, with Plans), and any further information, may be had, on application, from MIGUEL YGLESIAS and SON, 9, King's Arms-yard, Moorgate-street, London, E.C.

ROYAL ASYLUM OF ST. ANNE'S SOCIETY'S

SCHOOLS, Streatham-hill.

FUNDS much needed. AFFORDING HOME, CLOTHING, and EDUCATION to the CHILDREN of those who have once moved in a superior station of life (clergymen, officers in the Army or Navy, members of the legal and medical professions, merchants, &c.), orphans or not, of any country.

The children are now under care. Twenty will be elected in February next.

The Institution is unendowed and dependent on voluntary subscriptions. Additional support is urgently needed.

Forms of Nomination and Tickets to View the Schools can be obtained at the office.

Donations and Subscriptions will be gratefully received by the Treasurer, Philip Twiss, Esq., Messrs. Barclay and Co., 54, Lombard-street, E.C.; or by

Office, 52, King William-street, E.C. R. H. EVANS, Secretary.

MINERALOGY and GEOLOGY.—Elementary

Collections, to facilitate the study of these interesting branches of Science, can be had at 2, 5, 10, 20, 50, to 1000s. each, of J. TENNANT, 149, Strand, London, W.C. Mr. Tennant gives Private Instruction in Mineralogy and Geology.

NATIONAL INSTITUTION FOR DISEASES OF THE

SKIN, Gray's-inn-road and Mitre-street. Physician, Dr. Barr Meadows, 49, Dover-street, Piccadilly. Average number of patients under treatment, 1000 weekly. Free letters are available for necessitous applicants. T. ROBINSON, Hon. Sec.

THE RECENT FIRE AT PORTSMOUTH.

Dock Mill Stream Brewery, Southsea, Portsmouth, Nov. 23, 1870. Gentlemen,—Your Safe, that we have had in use for some years, was put to a very severe test on the night of the 15th inst., when a fire broke out upon our premises, destroying nearly the whole of our brewery.

The safe was in the hottest of the fire, and when removed on the following day gave evidence of having attained a white heat. It contained several Bank-notes, deeds, &c., which we found, on opening the safe, quite perfect, not even being discoloured. We shall thank you to send us a price-list, and oblige, Yours truly,

RICE BROS.

P.S.—We ought to mention that we could unlock it after the fire; but, in consequence of the handles being melted, we could not lift the bolts.

Messrs. CHUBB and SON, 57, St. Paul's-churchyard, London.

WRITING, BOOK-KEEPING, &c.—Persons of any

age, however bad their writing, may in eight easy lessons acquire permanently an elegant and flowing style of penmanship, adapted either to professional pursuits or private correspondence. Book-keeping by double entry, as practised in the Government, banking, and mercantile offices; arithmetic, shorthand, &c.—Apply to Mr. W. SMART, at his sole Institution, 97B, Quadrant, Regent-street. Agent to the West of England Fire and Life Insurance Company.

PALESTINE, GREECE, ASIA MINOR, TURKEY,

EGYPT.—Mr. H. GAZE, Originator and First Conductor of Tours to the East, will START, FEB. 6, with his FOURTH PARTY to the above-named Countries.—Particulars of Mr. Gaze, personally, at his Office, 163, Strand, London; or, full Prospectus, 2d.

WOTTON-UNDER-EDGE.—At a MEETING of the

TRUSTEES of the GRAMMAR SCHOOL of this Town, held on Friday last, Mr. E. B. RAND, B.A., late Senior Scholar of Gonville and Kings College, Cambridge, was, with the approval of the Trustees, appointed by the Rev. B. H. Perkins, B.L.C., Head Master, to the Second Mastership of the School.

CHRISTMAS OFFERINGS for the Church and Clergy.

A List of Appropriate Gifts forwarded upon application; or a variety of objects may be inspected at the Ecclesiastical Warehouse, FRANK SMITH and CO., 13, Southampton-street, Strand, London, W.C.

QUEEN'S CONCERT ROOMS, Hanover-square.

Programme of Mr. W. T. BEST'S RECITAL of ORGAN MUSIC, on FRIDAY EVENING, DEC. 23, at Eight o'clock. Part I.—Prelude and Fugue (G major), Bach. Cantata Pastorale, Alex. Guilmant. Concerto (G minor), Handel. Allegretto and Allegro (Op. 22), Niccolò W. Gade. (a) "Venite in Bethleem;" (b) "Pauline, comes Angeli" (Nos. 3 and 4 of Six Organ Pieces for Christmas), W. T. Best. Part II.—Sonata (D major), Mendelssohn. Toccata, J. L. Hatton. (a) Organ Prelude on the Choral, "Prepare thyself, O my soul;" (b) Finale to the Second Organ Sonata, for two Claviers and Pedal, Bach. Adagio and Allegro maestoso, F. Edward Bach. Tickets, price 2s. 6d. each, may be procured from Mr. Hall, at the Rooms, or from Messrs. Robert Cocks and Co., No. 6, New Burlington-street, W.

ST. JAMES'S HALL, Piccadilly.—Owing to the

extraordinary success which has attended the SEANCES MAGIQUE of MM. COMOS and ALEX. HERMANN during the past few weeks, the Management has great pleasure in announcing their continuance as under:—Every Monday Afternoon, at Three, every Tuesday Afternoon, at Three; every Thursday Afternoon, at Three; and every Friday Afternoon, at Three. During the Christmas Holidays a Grand Matinée Every Day, at Three, and Every Night, at Eight, the Christmas Minstrels giving their Holiday Entertainments in the Great Hall. Fauteuils, 5s.; Stalls, 3s.; Area, 2s.; Gallery, 1s.

ST. JAMES'S HALL.—HERMANN and COMOS every

MONDAY, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday AFTERNOONS, at Three.—The most novel and startling ILLUSION ever introduced into this country. These SEANCES will afford the little folks new home for the holidays the most unbounded delight. Surprise and roars of laughter greet these great masters of their art at every representation.

MR. and Mrs. GERMAN REED'S New Season at the

ROYAL GALLERY OF ILLUSTRATION, 14, Regent-street, will commence on MONDAY, DEC. 19. AGES AGO, a New Sketch for Mr. Corney Grain; and a new After-piece; when Mr. and Mrs. German Reed, Miss Fanny Holland, Mr. A. Cecil, and Mr. Corney Grain will appear.

EGYPTIAN HALL, Piccadilly.—Twice Daily—

Mornings at 2.30, Evenings at Eight.—POOLE and YOUNG'S PANORAMA depicting the GREAT BATTLES and MAGNIFICENT SCENERY on the RHINE, the SAAR, the MOSELLE, and the SEINE. The Colossal Dioramas of Paris, Berlin, Strasbourg, and Metz. Prices, 3s., 2s., and 1s.; Juveniles half price. Tickets at Mitchell's Royal Library, Old Bond-street.

CRYSTAL PALACE PANTOMIME, GULLIVER.

Invented and written by H. B. Farnie. Produced by E. T. Smith. Master Percy Roselle, Miss Caroline Parkes, Miss Emmeline Cole, Miss Thirlwall, Messrs. T. H. Friend, Yarnold, &c. Clown, Harry Belono.

To afford opportunity for parties of Children and others to witness the Pantomime before the crowded days following Boxing Day, it will be played on WEDNESDAY, THURSDAY, FRIDAY, and SATURDAY NEXT. The Adventures of Gulliver in the Marvellous Land of the Little People and in the Giant Home of the Brobdingnagians will be rendered highly amusing. One Hundred Children. Numerous Ballets. Gorgeous Transformation Scene by Mr. F. Penton and Assistants.

Admission daily (except Saturday), 1s.; Children under Twelve, half price. Saturday, 2s. 6d. Reserved Seats, 2s. 6d. and 1s. A large reduction when ovens are taken. Giant Christmas-Tree, Great Bazaar (the whole length of the Palace). Beautiful Decorations, War Court, Original War Sketches, Tropical Department, and innumerable attractions. Palace comfortably warmed daily. All approaches under cover.

CRYSTAL PALACE.—BOXING DAY (MONDAY NEXT).

The One Place to spend the Christmas Holiday. SHILLING DAY. Unrivalled popular Attractions. Extra trains as required. Come early. Open Nine till Nine.

THE CHRISTY MINSTRELS.—ST. JAMES'S HALL.

Every Night, Eight; Wednesdays and Saturdays, Three and Eight, all the year round. This Hall is now perfectly ventilated. Entirely New Programs of Songs, Ballads, &c., this Week. Fauteuils, 5s.; Stalls, 3s.; Area, 2s.; Gallery, 1s. Children under Twelve Half Price to Stalls and Area only. Places may be secured at a Quarter to Eight, Shakespeare's 33, Old Bond-street; Keith and Frowse, Cheap-side; Hays, Royal Exchange. No fees of any description whatsoever. Doors open at 2.30 for Day, 7.30 for Evening Performance. Sole Proprietors—Messrs. George W. Moore and Frederick Burgess. General Manager—Mr. Frederick Burgess.

UNDER the PATRONAGE of their Royal Highnesses the

PRINCE and PRINCESS OF WALES.—Miss NEILSON has the honour to announce that her FIRST BENEFIT at this Theatre will take place on MONDAY, DEC. 19, on which occasion her Majesty's servants will perform, at a Quarter to Eight, Shakespeare's Tragedy of ROMEO AND JULIET. Romeo, Mr. J. B. Howard; Mercutio, Mr. T. C. King; Juliet, Miss Neilson. After the Tragedy Miss Neilson will recite Tennyson's Poem, "The Charge of the Light Brigade." The performance to commence with the Farce of PHOEBUS' FIX; to conclude with the Farce of A DOMESTIC HERCULES. Doors open at Half-past Six, on Monday, Seven o'clock. Box-Office open from Ten till Five daily.—THEATRE ROYAL DRURY LANE.

THEATRE ROYAL HAYMARKET.—On MONDAY

NEXT, and during the Week (including Saturday, Christmas Eve), at Seven, THE WOLF AND THE LAMB; after which, at a Quarter to Eight, THE PALACE OF TRUTH.—Messrs. Buckstone, Kendal, Everill, Clark, Rogers, and Braid; Messrs. Chippendale, Robertson, C. Hill, F. Wright, and Fanny Gwynne; UNCLE'S WILL.—Mr. Kendal and Miss Robertson; concluding with FAMILY JARS. Box Office open daily from Ten till Five.

ST. JAMES'S THEATRE.—Last Weeks of FERNANDE.

Messrs. Farren, Leeson, Lyn Rayne, Gaston Murray, and Lionel Brough; Mrs. Hermann Vezin, Miss Larkin, Miss Fannie Brough, Miss Sallie Turner, and Mrs. John Wood; at Seven, TO OBLIGE BENSON; FERNANDE at 7.45; CHRISTMAS EVE, at 10.20. Box Office Eleven to Six.

ASTLEY'S.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. John Baum.—On

BOXING NIGHT will be produced a Grand Illustrative Comic Pantomime, HALLKIN, LITTLE HOUSE AND THE ELEVEN DANCING PRINCESSES; or, Diddle Diddle Dumpling and the Silver Frog.

ROYAL AMPHITHEATRE and CIRCUS, High Holborn.

Every Horse a picture, every Artist a star. All the great Acts, as given by command before their Royal Highnesses the Prince and Princess of Wales and Family. Last Week of the present splendid Company. Farewell Appearances of those illustrious Gymnastic Violinists, the Brothers Lavater Lee. Last Appearances of Mlle. Chiarini, the most astounding Equestrienne of the day. Last Appearances of Mr. Joe, Champion Somersault-Rider of the World. Last Appearances of that dear old soul "Papeta," the largest and best performing Elephant ever witnessed. Country visitors and town residents should not fail to visit the Royal Amphitheatre and Circus at once. The prettiest, most comfortable, and most commodious Theatre in the Metropolis. The entertainment unsurpassed at 4d. unsurpassable. Open at Seven. Morning Performances every Wednesday and Saturday, at Half-past Two.

NATIONAL STANDARD THEATRE, Bishopsgate.—The

New Pantomime, RIDE A COCK-HORSE TO BANBURY CROSS; or, Harlequin and the Silver Amazons. Morning Performances on MONDAY, Tuesday, and Thursday, DEC. 26, 27, and 29, and Every Monday and Thursday, at 12.30. Pantomime Every Evening, at Seven.

of the Powers. Early in September the last of the Prussian troops left Luxemburg.

The facts which we have thus briefly noted have probably wellnigh escaped the memories of most except those who were diplomatically mixed up in the transactions; but we believe that there was a sort of general impression that Lord Stanley had conducted the negotiations with a good deal of calm skill, and, though it was a highly desirable thing that war between France and Germany should be averted, England had mixed herself up in a matter which might occasion her trouble hereafter. This impression will be recollected by political students, and it will also be remembered that some pains were taken to efface it, and that in Parliament it was stated, or implied, that there was no great chance of the Luxemburg question being reopened, but that, if it should be, British diplomacy had so worded the treaty that it would not be difficult for this country to see her way out of the entanglement without interference with Continental affairs. Some persons thought that all this was rather unsatisfactory, and by no means so statesmanlike as it was said to be by those whose cue it was to represent the Conservative Foreign Office as a model of wisdom. But murmurs were unheeded, the difficulty was got out of the way for the time being, a process particularly dear to Englishmen, and, the treaty being carried out as we have said, the affair was speedily consigned to oblivion.

Three years and a half have passed since the treaty was signed, and during the last half year mighty events have occurred. Among their consequences has come the alleged discovery by victorious Germany that the terms of the treaty have been broken, that France has required and obtained valuable aid from Luxemburg in the great war, and that Prussia is no longer bound by the conditions made in London. According to the precedent which nations that are strong, or believe themselves strong, are to be taught to follow, the "tearing up" of a treaty is again menaced, and Count Bismarck declares the sort of intention in regard to the Luxemburg arrangements which Russia the other day proclaimed in regard to the Black Sea. Some pains have been taken to disprove the similarity of the cases, and, doubtless, there are distinctions between them, but the fact that in both a solemn treaty is repudiated by one party to it without consultation with the others remains a fact, and it will be difficult to show that Europe is not receiving a second lesson in the new moralities.

The English Cabinet has, of course, held meetings on the subject, but the terms in which Lord Granville will reply to Count Bismarck's declaration are not yet before us. There can hardly be two opinions as to what the answer ought to be. But we are not inclined to believe that they will be such as to alarm this country with fears that it will be called to take any active part in enforcing the Treaty of London. We do not care to dwell in detail upon the reasons which present themselves in favour of the probability of a very pacific course being taken by English statesmen. There is no doubt that if we had a powerful army and navy, and if the nation were imbued with warlike ardour, a very fair opportunity would be afforded to England for such an interference as should not only uphold the London Treaty but should materially alter the position of France. There may be many who would like to see us attempt this, even with the resources at present in our hands. But such persons are not the majority in the country, and we may be quite sure that they are not the majority in the Cabinet. We have reason to think that, while Lord Granville will express the most legitimate dissatisfaction with the course of Prussia, abundant opportunity will be afforded to her to show that, at the present crisis of the war, it may be necessary for her to check Luxemburg, and render her unable to lend further aid to France. The case of Prussia will receive all consideration; and, though we do not desire to state in terms that there will be a realisation of the idea with which the Conservative Government contrived to allay the uneasiness of the House of Commons in 1867, we shall probably not be far wrong in saying that the existing Cabinet will find it convenient to pay much respect to the statesmanship of its predecessor, and not unduly to sway from the moorings which were laid down three years ago.

While awaiting the solution of the new diplomatic problem that has arisen out of the great war, we have only to note that no very important change has come upon its fortunes since we last wrote. They have been marked by stirring incidents of battle and siege, new prizes have fallen into German hands, and new grief has come to the Army of the Loire. The details, if followed out upon the map, will be found interesting. The so-called Republican Government of France has fled from Tours to Bordeaux, and, as Blois has been taken, it will not be thought that the step was too hasty. Proclamations of encouragement and of defiance are, of course, still fulminated, and have provoked the Berlin Cabinet into a furious declaration that the Republican leaders are as great "liars" as the Marshals of the Empire. But Paris, her sufferings increasing day by day, still holds out, and defies the now reiterated warning that all is ready for the bombardment, which is to bring on the end.

A paper was read at a meeting of the Social Science Association, on Monday, by Mr. Edwin Chadwick, C.B., on "The Effects of Opening the Civil Service to unlimited competition on the Curriculum of School Education."

THE COURT.

The Queen entertained at dinner, yesterday (Friday) week, at Windsor Castle, Prince and Princess Christian, Prince and Princess Teck, the Duchess of Roxburghe, the Hon. Lady Buchanan, and the Right Hon. Sir Stafford Northcote. Her Majesty's private band played in the drawing-room after dinner before the Royal family and the ladies and gentlemen in waiting. The Dean of Windsor and the Hon. Mrs. Wellesley, Sir T. M. and the Hon. Lady Biddulph, Colonel N. and the Hon. Mrs. Ponsonby, Lady Cowell, Lieutenant-Colonel and Mrs. G. G. Gordon, and Mr. Sahl were also present.

On Saturday last the Queen visited the Countess of Clarendon at The Grove, Watford. Her Majesty travelled from Windsor by a special train to Kensington, and thence, via Willesden junction, to Watford station, whence the Queen drove to The Grove in a Royal carriage which had preceded her Majesty from Windsor. The Queen remained with the Countess of Clarendon about an hour, and then returned to Windsor, arriving at the castle at two o'clock. Prince Arthur visited her Majesty. Prince and Princess Teck and Sir Stafford Northcote left the castle. The Lord Chancellor arrived at the castle.

On Sunday the Queen, Prince Leopold, Princess Beatrice, and Prince Christian attended Divine service in the private chapel of the castle. The Very Rev. the Dean of Chester officiated. Prince and Princess Christian lunched with her Majesty.

Wednesday was the ninth anniversary of the death of the lamented Prince Consort. Prince Arthur arrived at the castle from Greenwich Park. The Queen, Prince and Princess Christian, and the other members of the Royal family went to the Royal mausoleum at Frogmore, at eleven o'clock. The Prince and Princess of Wales arrived at the same time from London. A special commemorative service was performed by the Dean of Windsor, the choir of St. George's Chapel singing, at the commencement, the hymn beginning "He lives where none can mourn and weep." After placing wreaths of immortelles upon the sarcophagus, the Queen and the Royal family returned to the castle. Subsequently the Royal household and servants, and many of the inhabitants of the town, had the privilege of visiting the chapel. Mrs. Gladstone was among the visitors. The Prince and Princess of Wales and Prince Arthur left the castle in the afternoon. The Dean of Westminster and Lady Augusta Stanley arrived at the castle.

The Queen has taken her customary daily drives, accompanied by Princess Louise and the other members of the Royal family.

The Marquis of Lorn has been on a visit at the castle. The Queen has entertained at dinner Prince and Princess Christian, the Duke and Duchess of Roxburghe, the Duke of Argyll, the Marquis of Lorn, the Marquis and Marchioness of Westminster, and Lady Elizabeth Campbell, the Lord Chancellor, and the Dean of Windsor.

The Prince of Leiningen visited the Queen on Tuesday and remained to luncheon.

Lady Waterpark has succeeded the Countess of Gainsborough as Lady in Waiting to her Majesty.

The Marquis of Huntly, Lieutenant-Colonel W. H. F. Cavendish, and Colonel Du Plat have succeeded Lord Methuen, the Hon. Algernon W. F. Greville, and Lord Charles Fitzroy as Lord, Groom, and Equerry in Waiting to the Queen.

THE PRINCE AND PRINCESS OF WALES.

The Prince and Princess of Wales arrived at Stafford House, on Saturday last, from visiting the Duke and Duchess of Marlborough at Blenheim Palace. Their Royal Highnesses visited the Queen at Windsor Castle on Wednesday. The Prince left town for Norfolk on Thursday. The Princess will proceed to Sandringham House to-day (Saturday).

Prince and Princess Christian of Schleswig-Holstein were present at a concert given on Monday by the Windsor and Eton Amateur Madrigal Society, at St. Mark's School. The Prince and Princess left Frogmore House on Wednesday on a visit to Earl and Countess Vane, at Wynyard Park, Stockton.

Prince Arthur distributed the prizes to the successful students of the Royal Arsenal Science Classes, on Monday, at Woolwich. Professor Ruskin delivered an address.

The Princess de Tremoille has left the Clarendon Hotel.

The Duke and Duchess of Alcorn and Lady Georgiana Hamilton have left town for Eastwell Park, Kent.

The Duke and Duchess of Athole have left Thomas's Hotel.

The Duke and Duchess of Cleveland and Lady Mary Primrose have arrived at Battle Abbey, Sussex, from Baby Castle, Durham.

THE LONDON SCHOOL BOARD.

The first meeting of the Education Board for the Metropolis was held on Thursday afternoon, in the Council Chamber, Guildhall. The whole of the forty-nine members who were elected by the constituencies were present, with the exception of Mr. J. McGregor (Greenwich). Alderman Cotton was called to the chair, and Miss Emily Davies and Miss Garrett occupied seats to the right of the chair. A motion of Professor Huxley that the Chairman of the Board be not paid having been carried by 32 votes to 14 (two members abstaining from voting), Lord Lawrence was chosen chairman by a large majority, and Mr. Charles Reed vice chairman. There were four candidates for the office—Lord Lawrence, Mr. C. Reed, Mr. McCullagh Torrens, and Professor Huxley.

Lord Lawrence was then conducted to the chair amid loud cheers; and, after thanking the board for the honour they had conferred upon him, he said that he would do his best to make the school board for London a success. He was prepared to give his time and labour to the work freely and ungrudgingly, and he had full confidence that he should receive such support from the members of the board as would enable him to attain success. He trusted that they would be able to do the work in such a way as to set an example to the whole kingdom, and to establish a sound and excellent system of education for the great mass of the people.

Lord Sandon moved the appointment of a sub-committee, consisting of the chairman, deputy chairman, and one member from each of the constituencies, to recommend to the board what officers will be needed for the immediate business of the board, to define their duties, and to suggest their salaries. Mr. Freeman seconded the motion, and it was agreed to.

The board then adjourned until Wednesday next.

Mr. Ayrton presided at a meeting, on Wednesday evening, at the Society of Arts, when Mr. Alan Cole read a paper on "A New Method of Producing Durable Mural Paintings by Fictile Vitrefaction."

The annual general meeting of the members of the Institution of Civil Engineers has been convened for Tuesday evening next, "to receive and deliberate upon the report of the council, and to elect the officers for the ensuing year."

METROPOLITAN NEWS.

Mr. Charles Reed and Mr. John Holms, the members for Hackney, addressed their constituents, on Tuesday night, in the Hackney Townhall.

Last Saturday evening the distribution of prizes at St. Mark's Training College, Chelsea, by Lord Lawrence, took place in the dining-hall of the institution.

A communication was made to the Royal Geographical Society, on Monday night, that Sir Roderick Murchison is considered by his medical attendants to be out of danger; but his recovery must necessarily be slow.

The Court of Common Council has voted £500 in aid of the fund, arising from the gifts of persons on their admission to the freedom of the City, annually distributed on St. Thomas's Day to poor widows of freemen.

In reply to a deputation headed by Mr. Merriman, the Lord Mayor, on Tuesday, declined to convene a public meeting at Guildhall to consider the position of France and the means of securing an honourable and enduring peace.

The annual dinner of the members of the Royal London Yacht Club was held on Tuesday at Willis's Rooms—the commodore, Mr. A. Arcedeckne, presiding. Upwards of a hundred gentlemen were present.

The Fishmongers' Company have forwarded cheques of £20 to each of the metropolitan police courts, in aid of the poor-box funds, and the Skinners' Company cheques of £10 for the same purpose. A grant of 50 gs. has been made by the Mercers' Company to the funds of the Refuge for the Destitute, Dalston.

One of the appeals which are addressed to the philanthropic public at this season is that of the Alexandra Institution for the Blind. Last winter the council supplemented their ordinary work of industrial training and employment by providing 723 dinners for the necessitous blind. They wish to extend the benefit this winter to a much larger number of the 2633

The annual dinner of the Ranelagh Yacht Club took place, on Wednesday, at the Ship Hotel, Charing-cross—the commodore, Mr. J. Boyd, in the chair. In proposing "The Ranelagh Yacht Club," the commodore observed that it had been started some years ago as an above-bridge club; but, owing to circumstances, had to sail its matches below, and shift its clubhouse from Chelsea to Charing-cross.

Within the last few days the following donations have been received by the charities named:—The National Hospital for the Paralyzed and Epileptic, £1000 from "W. X.," the Royal Westminster Ophthalmic Hospital, £1000 from "W. R. T.," and the Royal Hospital for Incurables, £500 from "B." Viscount Gage has sent cheques of £5 to the poor-boxes of metropolitan police courts; and cheques also of £5 5s. have been received from Messrs. Lee and Jerdein, of Lancaster-place, Strand, for the same purpose.

A public meeting was held yesterday week, at St. James's Hall, to express sympathy with his Holiness Pope Pius IX. The entire hall was crowded, and in the body of it were a large number of ladies. On the platform were the Duke of Norfolk, the Earl of Denbigh, the Earl of Gainsborough, Lord Arundell of Wardour, Lord Herries, Viscount Campden, Sir George Bowyer, and others of note. The chair was taken by Archbishop Manning. One of the resolutions (ignoring the completion of the matter) affirms that "the attempt to dethrone the Sovereign Pontiff is a formal rejection of the dispositions of Divine Providence." The principal speakers were the Duke of Norfolk, the Earl of Denbigh, Sir G. Bowyer, M.P., and Mr. H. Matthews, M.P.

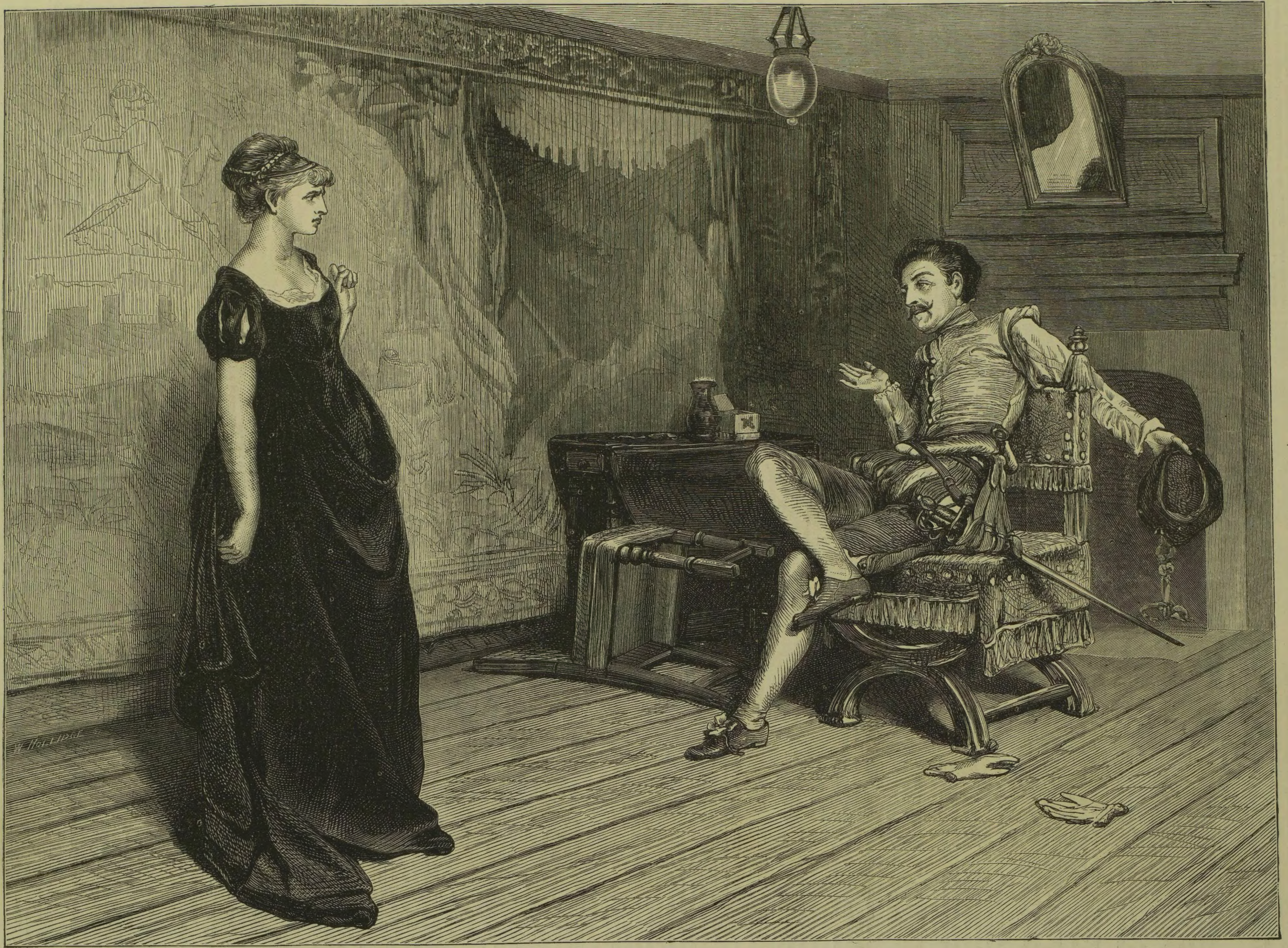
A meeting of the City committee of the Captain Relief Fund was held, on Wednesday, at the Mansion House—Mr. J. Gassiot in the chair. It was reported that £4010 had been received by the committee, of which £2680 had been paid at the Mansion House and £1330 at the London and Westminster Bank. The fund now amounted to between £12,000 and £13,000, leaving a balance of £19,000 to be collected before the distribution scheme of the committee could be carried out. Resolutions were passed, at the instance of Mr. S. Morley, M.P., expressing a hope that a generous response would be made to a renewed appeal to complete the necessary sum. The committee also notice with feelings of gratitude the offer of Mr. Chatterton, the lessee of Drury Lane Theatre, to contribute the proceeds of a morning performance of "Amy Robsart" towards the relief of the distressed widows and orphans. It was announced that a general meeting of the two leading committees—those in the City and at Portsmouth—will be held on the first Thursday in February next.

We have received from Mr. W. Bayne Ranken, honorary secretary to the Discharged Prisoners' Aid Society, 39, Charing-cross, a letter relating to a paragraph about the society which appeared in our last week's issue. He states "that this society, established in 1857, devotes itself entirely to the assistance of discharged convicts, and has helped upwards of 6300 persons since it commenced its operations. The great object of this society is not to give pecuniary relief, but to place men, by means of their own money, in positions where they may have the opportunity of gaining, if they choose to exert themselves, an honest livelihood. A vast amount of correspondence with convict prisons and with the men themselves, when these are at a distance, has to be kept up. A daily report has to be made through our agents of those under the society's care, and a monthly report of every case sent into the Commissioner of Police, so that the work entailed is very considerable."

At a meeting, yesterday week, of the subscribers to the Refugees' Benevolent Fund, held at the Mansion House, Captain Fitzroy, the hon. secretary of the British Charitable Fund, in his report to the committee, stated that he could not anticipate any reduction in the weekly expenditure of the society, which had hitherto been on an average of about £70. The Hon. Lucy Kerr, reporting upon the work of the ladies' committee, stated that from Oct. 27 to the end of November they had sent out 668 servants to 595 places, had had applications for 650 servants and from 265 servants for places, and had placed 150; and had found work for 21 needlewomen and were in treaty for more. There were 176 governesses on the register, and 118 had been applied for. Twenty-six persons received weekly pensions, amounting in the whole to about £15 weekly. The home at Westminster, which held 10 or 11 persons, had cost for food, &c., an average of only 8s. 5d. per head per week; while the home at Bayswater, which could accommodate 28 to 30, cost per head about 7s. 6d. Both homes were lent rent free. Mr. Bennoch said that Mr. Knight, the general manager of the Brighton Railway Company, had informed him that on Wednesday, in the middle of the night, 300 refugees from Normandy arrived at London Bridge; 95 per cent of these did not understand a word of English, and had no homes. Fires were lighted in the waiting-rooms, and they were made comfortable till the morning; but as soon as daylight appeared they gradually melted away into the streets, without, perhaps, a friend in the country.



SPANISH DEPUTATION PASSING THROUGH THE LUNGHI' ARNO, AT FLORENCE, TO OFFER THE CROWN OF SPAIN TO PRINCE AMADEUS OF ITALY.



"TAMING OF THE SHREW," PAINTED BY W. Q. ORCHARDSON, A.R.A., IN THE WINTER EXHIBITION OF THE FRENCH GALLERY.

THE CHURCH.

PREFEMENTS AND APPOINTMENTS.

Bayne, R. B., to be Curate and Lecturer of St. Mary's, Whitechapel.
 Bazely, John; Vicar of North Stoke.
 Benson, Percy George; Vicar of New Bolingbroke, Lincolnshire.
 Bland, Philip Davison; Rector of Draycott-le-Moors, Staffordshire.
 Borchardt, Henry Jennings; Rector of Burmarsh, Hythe.
 Clark, John Holdenby; Vicar of West Dereham.
 Daniel, George; Rector of Flowton.
 Deane, William; Rector of Hinton, Norfolk.
 Dyer, C. J.; Rector of Barrowden.
 Earle, Leonard Harcourt; Rector of Coningsholme.
 Forrest, R. W.; Incumbent of the new district of St. Jude's, South Kensington.
 Gabbott, William; Vicar of St. John's, Beckenham, near Whitehaven.
 Gardner, Richard; Vicar of Christ Church, Winchester.
 Harrison, J. D.; Vicar of Barton, Preston.
 Heelis, John; Rector of Dufton; Rural Dean of Appleby.
 Horley, Englebert; Rector of Septon.
 Hughes, James Henry; Vicar of Barrow-upon-Trent-cum-Twyford.
 Hughes, Thomas Jones; Rector of Llanberis Dyffryn Clwyd.
 James, James Caddy; Rector of Sedgborough.
 Kelly, J. D.; Vicar of Christchurch, Ashton; Rural Dean of Ashton-under-Lyne.
 Lush, William; Vicar of Stixwold.
 Maunders, C.; Chaplain at Landguard Fort, Harwich.
 May, Edward Thomson; Vicar of Newton St. Cyres, Devon.
 Maynard, Edward Wallis Hoare; Curate of Portishead.
 Medleycott, H. J.; Rector of Cucklington-cum-Stoke and Bayford.
 Meeres, Horace; Vicar of Bradwell with Kilmessy, Oxon.
 Milroy, Andrew Wallace; Curate of St. Mark's, St. Marylebone.
 Monkhouse, Philip Edmund; Curate of St. James's, Norland-sq., Notting-hill.
 Morgan, John Parry; Vicar of Llanasor, Flint.
 Owen, John; Rector of Llandegla, Denbighshire.
 Parker, Frederick William; Rector of Aberhafesp, Montgomeryshire.
 Pearson, Edward Lynch; Vicar of Little Abington, Cambridgeshire.
 Phelps, Chantles; Rector of Cucklington, Somerset.
 Ramsay, A. C.; Curate of St. Columba, Haggerston.
 Rees, John; Vicar of St. Peter's, Eberch, Cardiganshire.
 Roach, Edwin Osmond; Vicar of Lacock, Wilts.
 Robinson, A. D.; Domestic Chaplain to Marquis Townshend.
 Taverner, Harvey Edmund; Minor Canon of Worcester Cathedral.
 Taylor, John Marriott; Perpetual Curate of Seer Green, Bucks.
 Tidy, T. M.; Curate of St. Mary's, Haggerston.
 Tristram, H. B.; Vicar of Greatham; Honorary Canon in Durham Cathedral.
 Waller, A.; Vicar of Hunstanton and Rector of Ringstead Parva.
 Welsh, William Frederick; Vicar of Stan'ord, Norfolk.
 Whytt, J.; Curate of Trinity Church, Bath.
 Wilkins, William Francis; Rector of Lutterworth, Leicestershire.
 Wollaston, Charles Buchanan; Vicar of Ampot, Andover.

The Bishop of Lincoln proposes holding an ordination in Lent, 1871.

The Bishop of Worcester has consecrated St. Mark's Church, Stamber-hill, near Stourbridge.

The Rev. Canon Harcourt, Prebend of Carlisle Cathedral, died, on Saturday morning, at Carlisle.

The parish church of St. Andrew's, Biggleswade, was reopened on Nov. 30, after having been thoroughly refitted by the architects, Messrs. Habershon and Pite.

It is understood that the special services under the dome of St. Paul's Cathedral will commence on the evening of New-Year's Day, the Bishop of London being the preacher.

At an influential meeting of the laity and clergy held at Nottingham, on Tuesday, it was unanimously resolved to invite the Church Congress to hold their meeting there next year.

St. Mary's Church, Barnard Castle, Durham, has been effectively restored, and on Thursday week was reopened by the Bishop of the diocese.

On Wednesday Archbishop Tenison's Chapel, now a district church, dedicated to St. Thomas, was reopened. The Bishop of Rochester preached.

A new altar space has been erected in the sanctuary of York Minster. The designer is Mr. Street; and the execution of the work has been completed by Mr. Earp.

The *Chester Courant* states that Earl Grosvenor, heir of the Marquis of Westminster, was confirmed by the Bishop of Chester, in the chapel of the Right Rev. Prelate's palace, Deeside, on Saturday week.

The Queen has signified her intention of patronising a bazaar to be held at Ryde, Isle of Wight, in support of the new parish church in course of erection, the first stone of which was laid by Princess Christian.

Mr. T. Shepherd, solicitor, has filled in the north aisle of St. Mary's Church, York, with stained glass, in memory of his parents. A stained memorial window has also been placed in the minster.

At a meeting of the S.P.C.K., a grant of £500 was made to the endowment of the see of Bloemfontein; and, on the application of the Bishop of Ohio, a special grant for a church and school at Salt Lake city.

The ancient church of Amotherby, near Malton, is being restored. A figure, in chain armour, and two grave-covers, with crosses and an inscription to the Bordesden family (fourteenth century) have been discovered.

The special education fund raised by the Bishop of Rochester to meet the educational wants of his diocese now amounts to £6225. This amount has been contributed by 240 donors. The Bishop is endeavouring to raise £12,000.

The death of the Rev. Joseph Bancroft Reade, M.A., President of the Royal Microscopical Society, in his seventy-first year, is announced. In 1863 he was presented by Archbishop Longley to the Rectory of Bishopscote, near Canterbury, which he held until the time of his death.

The Bishop of Norwich has issued a circular to his clergy urging them to give their active promotion and support to local efforts in their parishes for the provision and maintenance of schools on the voluntary principle, with distinctive religious teaching.

The Bishop of London's Christmas ordination will be held at St. Paul's Cathedral to-morrow (Sunday). Amongst the candidates for holy orders who have presented themselves is the Rev. Brewin Grant, the well-known Dissenting minister, repudiated by his congregation in the north for opposing the disestablishment of the Irish Church.

In consequence of the new arrangement, St. Paul's Cathedral will have four Bishops connected with it—namely, Dr. Jackson, Bishop of London, chief of the diocese; Dr. David Anderson, late Bishop of Rupert's Land, Chancellor; Dr. Cloughton, Bishop of Colombo, as Archdeacon of London; and Dr. Mackenzie, Suffragan Bishop of Nottingham, as one of the Bishop of London's Chaplains.

The *Electer Gazette* states that the monetary difficulty with respect to the commencement of the restoration of the cathedral of that city is at an end. The sum of £3000 was wanted to make up the £15,000 required for the choir alone, and in consequence of that deficiency the Chapter decided, less than a fortnight since, to postpone the undertaking. Since then the Rev. Chancellor Harington has announced his intention of adding £3000 to his previous gift of £1000, in order that the restoration may at once be proceeded with, in accordance with Mr. Gilbert Scott's plan. A meeting of the Chapter will be held shortly, and it is thought probable that the contract for the alteration and readornment of the choir will be signed forthwith. What the cost of the restoration of the whole cathedral will be has not transpired; but it is sure to exceed £50,000.

The Revisers of the New Testament Company commenced their fifth Session, at the Jerusalem Chamber, on Tuesday—the Bishop of Gloucester presided. Twenty members were present. Considerable advance was made, the number of verses revised being greater than at any former meeting. As leading principles have now been agreed upon, it seems probable that the rate of progress will be steadily maintained.

On the Feast of St. Andrew, the Church of St. Leonard, Blunsdon, Wilts, was reopened by the Bishop of Gloucester and Bristol. The restoration has been admirably carried out under the direction of Mr. Butterfield. The Rector, who has himself contributed very considerably towards the cost of this good work, has met with most liberal support from friends in the neighbourhood and from his parishioners.

All Saints' Church, Woodlesford, York, was consecrated, on Thursday week, by the Bishop of Ripon. The church was built at a cost of nearly £5000, of which Mr. Henry Bentley, of the well-known firm of Messrs. Bentley and Co., in the town, gave £1000; and that firm presented the site. The church contains several stained-glass windows. The east window (memorial) was presented by Messrs. Bentley and Co.; north window, in chancel (memorial), by Miss Constance Bentley; and three west windows, by Mr. W. F. Hoyle, of Ferham House.

A meeting was held at Wakefield, on Thursday week—under the presidency of Lord Fitzwilliam, Lord Lieutenant of the West Riding—for the purpose of taking steps to supply the existing deficiencies in elementary Church education in the diocese of Ripon. From the statement of the Diocesan, who was present, it appears that in 180 schools in the diocese there is deficient accommodation. Of that number ninety-five of the schools are in the towns of Huddersfield, Bradford, Halifax, and Wakefield, the remaining eighty-five in the manufacturing and agricultural districts. To reach this deficiency it is proposed to adopt the agency of the Diocesan Board of Education, appoint paid inspectors "to provide for effective examination in religious knowledge in Church training colleges and schools," and to appeal to Churchmen of the diocese for aid. The Bishop estimates the cost necessary to render Church school accommodation really adequate to the wants of the people at between £70,000 and £80,000.

THE UNIVERSITIES AND PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

OXFORD.

The Casberd Scholarship at St. John's has been awarded to C. F. Bourne, from Merchant Taylors' School.

The King Charles I. Scholarship at Exeter has been awarded to F. G. B. Campbell, of Cheltenham College. *Proxime accessit*—E. Le Feuvre, Victoria College, Jersey.

Mr. Herbert Paul Richards, B.A., and Scholar of Balliol College, was, on Wednesday, elected to the vacant fellowship at Wadham College, Oxford. There were seven candidates.

The subjoined class-list has been issued by the Examiners in the Theological School:—Class I.: C. L. Dundas, Brasenose. Class II.: G. K. Turner, New. Class III.: A. L. Trotman, St. Mary Hall. Class IV.: T. T. Dyer, Pembroke; J. H. Elliott-Smith, Worcester.

The Examiners in the Law and Modern History School have issued the following award:—

Class I. J. W. Diggle, Postmaster, Merton; H. Gilliat, Commoner, University; H. P. Henderson, Scholar, New.

Class II. A. H. D. Acland, Commoner, Christ Church; W. B. Brown, Commoner, Brasenose; Lord R. H. S. Churchill, Commoner, Merton; W. W. L. Cosser, Commoner, Magdalen; the Earl of Donoughmore, Commoner, Balliol; O. J. Dunn, Commoner, St. Edmund Hall; R. L. Kenyon, Commoner, Christ Church; J. Leach, Exhibitioner, Christ Church; W. C. Lucy, Commoner, Trinity; H. C. Maxwell-Lyte, Commoner, Christ Church; F. Pownall, Commoner, Exeter; Hon. H. R. Scott, Commoner, Balliol; A. J. Stuart-Wortley, Commoner, Merton; A. H. Turner, Commoner, Christ Church; R. J. Wilson, Commoner, Magdalen; C. H. Woodruff, Commoner, Merton.

Class III. A. E. Beavan, Commoner, Worcester; J. J. Bickerton, Commoner, Charsley Hall; E. K. Browne, Commoner, New; H. M. Burgess, Commoner, Worcester; L. J. Chamberlain, Commoner, Brasenose; T. L. Cloughton, Commoner, Trinity; W. E. J. Eveleigh-Wyndham, Commoner, Corpus Christi; T. King, Commoner, Queen's; J. J. Lloyd, Scholar, Jesus; S. F. Lucas, Commoner, Exeter; H. E. Kendle, Commoner, Brasenose; E. G. Taylor, Commoner, Wadham; F. U. Waite, Commoner, Balliol.

Class IV. A. H. Bartley, Commoner, Queen's; C. A. Hopwood, Commoner, Brasenose; and W. H. Lewis, Commoner, Lincoln.

The Examiners in the Final Mathematical School have issued the following award:—

Class I. A. W. Edwards, Scholar, University; A. D. Mozley, Scholar, Jesus; A. W. Rücker, Scholar, Brasenose.

Class II. J. B. Harrison, Exhibitioner, Queen's; A. F. Jeffreys, Commoner, Christ Church; J. R. Walker, Commoner, Exeter.

Class III. J. H. Berry, Exhibitioner, Christ Church; F. W. Taylor, Commoner, University.

Class IV. A. Phillimore, Commoner, Oriel.

The examiners in the School of Natural Science have issued the following list:—

Class I. C. Childs, Scholar of Merton; F. H. Champneys, Commoner of Brasenose; F. W. Pison, Scholar of Christ Church; S. J. Sharkey, Scholar of Jesus.

Class II. C. E. Blencowe, Commoner of Wadham; J. D. Bradshaw, Demy of Magdalen; F. G. D. Hewitt, Commoner; C. Pitt-Bryne, Commoner, and W. E. Thompson, B.A., Christ Church.

Class III. J. H. Morgan, Commoner of Trinity.

The following gentlemen have been elected to Postmaster-ships at Merton:—In Classics—Mr. E. L. Hawkins, Eton College. In Mathematics—Mr. A. Drinkwater, Magdalen School. In Natural Science—Mr. J. Richmond, Manchester Grammar School. Exhibitions have been given to Mr. W. Hunt, Royal Institution, Liverpool, for Mathematics, and to Mr. R. Ferguson, Manchester Grammar School, for Natural Science. The following gentlemen distinguished themselves in the examination:—Mr. A. Cartwright, Christ's Hospital; Mr. H. M. Faber, Magdalen School.

The race of the "trial eights" came off, yesterday week, between the following crews:—Bow, Cook, Trinity; 2, Armistead, Exeter; 3, Formby, St. Mary Hall; 4, Kay, Wadham; 5, Malan, Worcester; 6, Giles, Christ Church; 7, Bunbury, Brasenose; stroke, Houlton, Christ Church; coxswain, Wilson, Wadham. Bow, Farrer, Brasenose; 2, Slater, St. John's; 3, Davey, Balliol; 4, Mitcheson, Pembroke; 5, Burgess, Brasenose; 6, Bodington, Queen's; 7, Leslie, Pembroke; stroke, Furneaux, Corpus. The weights of the crews were nearly equal, the latter being about 17 lb. the heavier. After a hard struggle, and with alternate leads, Houlton's boat won a splendid race by three quarters of a length.

CAMBRIDGE.

The members' prize at Cambridge, given annually for the best English essay in connection with British History or Literature, was, on Tuesday, adjudged to John de Soyres, Caius College.

The Crosse (University) Theological Scholarship, "for Promoting the Cause of True Religion," has, after examination, been awarded to F. Watson, B.A., St. John's College. The Examiners consider that J. Sharpe, B.A., of Christ's College, acquitted himself with credit.

In the Tripos Examinations the under-mentioned have been examined and approved:—

Applied Science.—Class I.: De la Rue, St. John's. Class II.: Allport, Trinity; Muntz, Corpus; Roberts, St. John's; Robertson, Trinity Hall; Thorp, Gonville and Caius. J. C. W. Ellis and W. A. Whitworth, Examiners. Second Special Examination in Natural Science.

Botany.—Class I.: Burnet-Stewart, Pembroke. Class II.: Law, Christ's; Rockville, Jesus.

Chemistry.—Class II.: Fussell, Trinity. Geology.—Class II.: Hervey, St. Peter's. C. Trotter and W. P. Hiern, Examiners. Second M.B. Examination.

In the Second General Examination for the Ordinary Degree:—

Class I. Borradaile, Trinity Hall; Broughton, Caius; Bucknill and Crosse, Trinity; David, Trinity Hall; Dods-worth, Corpus; Don, Jesus; Fellowes, Magdalen; Fitz-Herbert, St. John's; Gurney and Johnstone, Trinity; J. C. Lamb, Jesus; Milburn, Magdalen; Pitts, Jesus; J. H. Pugh, St. John's; Randolph and Revington, Trinity; Saunders, Downing; Scott, Corpus; Sewell, Trinity; Shears and Steadman, St. John's; Willis, Trinity; Woodward, Jesus.

Class II. Badger, Trinity Hall; Baggallay, Caius; D. D. Coyte, Clare; Dale, Emmanuel; Elsmere, Caius; Enfield, St. Catherine's; Evans, Corpus; C. M. Fletcher and Gilbert, Jesus; Hargrave, Sidney Sussex; Harrison, Trinity; Hervey, St. Peter's; J. P. Hervey, St. John's; Hotchkiss, Trinity; Hulton, Downing; Hunt, Trinity Hall; Jackson and Jardine, Trinity; Johnson, Corpus; Larnach, Trinity; H. J. Mason and Packard, Corpus; Phillips, Trinity; Pothett, Clare; Potts, St. John's; Pringle, Trinity; Rose and Shaw, Caius; Smith, Sidney Sussex; Stansfeld, Corpus; Stokes, Pembroke; J. B. Taylor, St. John's; J. W. Taylor and T. Taylor, Jesus; Temple, Trinity Hall; Thornton, Caius; Thornton, Trinity; Wardroper, Corpus; Whitworth, Christ's; Wilkinson, Jesus; Winslow, Caius.

Class III. Barham, St. John's; Clarke, St. Catherine's; Cordeaux, St. John's; Eustace, St. Peter's; Farler, St. John's; Gathercole, Sidney Sussex; Haworth, St. John's; Haymes, Emmanuel; Hone, Trinity; Kemble, Queens'; Llewellyn, St. John's; Lush, Trinity Hall; Mathison, St. John's; Maxwell, Trinity; C. G. Moore, Corpus; Nash, Jesus; Stephenson, Trinity; J. Terry, St. John's; Tofts, Christ's; Tomlinson, Caius; Waldie-Griffith, Jesus; Ward, Trinity; Ward and Williams, Jesus; Wood, Caius. Class IV. H. J. Carver, St. John's; Clarke, Corpus; Cory, Pembroke; Dand, Christ's; Forman, St. Catherine's; Higgins, St. John's; Kempe, Christ's; Stracey, Magdalen; Truman, Caius. Examined in algebra and approved—Dunn, Clare.

A meeting of the C.U.B.C. was held last week, Mr. J. H. D. Goldie (St. John's), president, in the chair. The challenge sent from Oxford was received with loud cheers, and on the motion of Mr. Goldie, seconded by Mr. W. H. Lowe (Christ's), it was enthusiastically accepted. The day was not fixed, but it is understood it will be about April 1. Mr. Goldie was re-appointed president of the C.U.B.C., and Mr. Randolph secretary, the other members of the small committee being Messrs. Lowe (Christ's), Spencer (2nd Trinity), and Close (1st Trinity). Mr. Goldie has had an eight out during the last few days. The piles have all been removed from the railway bridge.

The Joseph Hume Scholarship in Jurisprudence at the University College, London, has been awarded to Mr. George Serrell, M.A., London.

The Rev. William Baker, M.A., Tutor and late Fellow of St. John's College, Oxford, has been appointed Head Master of Merchant Taylors' School, in the room of the Rev. Dr. Hessey, who retires at Christmas.

Monday was "Founder's Day" at Charterhouse; but there was an absence of those entertainments which made the day so pleasant during the Mastership of the late Archdeacon Hale. There was a service in the chapel and an oration; but the usual dinner was entirely dispensed with.

Application is to be made to Parliament for leave to alter the terms of the Foundation of St. Paul's School by Dean Colet, and also for power to enlarge the building and to improve the education.

A conference of gentlemen interested in scientific education was held in the Royal Institution, Liverpool, on Tuesday se'nnight, and passed unanimously a resolution declaring the advisability of establishing a Science College in that town, the cost of which was estimated at about £50,000, and a committee was appointed to take steps with a view of carrying out the object.

The examination just taken place at the College of Surgeons for the fellowship presents a feature of unusual interest, it having afforded the first instance of an East Indian, Mr. Gopal Chunder Roy, having been admitted to that distinction.

The Duke of Wellington has presented to Wellington College Wyatt's bust of his father. It has been placed in the front quadrangle of the college, upon a pedestal of Devonshire marble, also presented by the Duke.

Professor Oakeley delivered, yesterday week, at the Edinburgh University music class-room, an open lecture to the students and others interested in vocal music, which was treated theoretically, with experiments and illustrations.

A new grammar school has been established at Croydon, Surrey. It appears that an old charity, bequeathed by Archbishop Whitgift, has been applied under a new scheme to meet the educational requirements of that district, and handsome school buildings have already been erected for the accommodation of upwards of 300 boys.

The Lord Lieutenant of Ireland has refused to receive the deputation of Irish Mayors which it was proposed should wait upon him to urge the release of the Fenian prisoners.

The *London Gazette* of Tuesday notifies that the Speaker has issued his warrant for the election of a member to represent the county of Meath in Parliament. The election will take place on the 20th inst.

The total receipts into the National Exchequer from April 1 to Dec. 10, 1870, was £41,713,053, against £46,204,000 in the corresponding period last year. The expenditure was £44,595,043, against £46,095,767 last year. The balance in the Bank on Saturday last was £31,084,815.

NEW BOOKS AND NEW EDITIONS.

We continue the running notice of a multitude of literary publications, some of them furnished with elaborate artistic illustrations, and externally adorned with costly ornamental bindings, which are sent to the office of this Journal for editorial commendation. It is scarcely possible, in the majority of instances, to make a critical examination of their contents; all that our space and leisure will admit is a short descriptive mention, with a word here or there of approval where the book has some obvious features of merit. A few of the new works just issued which deserve and demand more reading and reflection must be reserved for a deliberate review at a convenient time.

Amongst the illustrated Christmas or New Year's gift-books and the drawing-room table books which come out for this season, not the least attractive is *Pictures from English Literature*, published by Messrs. Cassell, Petter, and Galpin. The cover has too much gilding for good taste to approve; but the contents are of sterling quality and excellent style, being twenty well-selected passages from the writings, prose and verse, of as many standard English classics, beginning with Chaucer, and ending with Bulwer-Lytton, Thackeray, Dickens, and Tennyson. The editor is Dr. Waller, of Trinity College, Dublin. The engravings are from designs by twenty different living artists, including Messrs. Horsley, Ward, Yeames, Faed, Du Maurier, Hablot Browne, and John Gilbert. Sir Walter Scott's romantic poem, *The Lord of the Isles*, illustrated with beautiful photographs of Scottish highland and island scenery, by Messrs. Russell, Sedgfield and Stephen Thompson, is the new volume of a series issued by Messrs. Prevost and Co., of Henrietta-street; who have already produced "Marmion" and "The Lady of the Lake," with a similar accompaniment, by aid of the camera; and we presume that this story of the Lord of Lorn and the Battle of Bannockburn will be perused with fresh interest at the present time. It may not be amiss here to allude to a little book of quite another class, *Iona*, by the Duke of Argyll; a brief historical treatise on the age and place of St. Columba, on his life and holy work, published by Messrs. Strahan and Co. This reminds us to notice Messrs. Johnstone, Hunter, and Co.'s illustrated edition of *The Scots Worthies*, a series of biographical memoirs of the Northern Reformers and Covenanters, by John Howie of Lochgoon, revised by the Rev. W. H. Carslaw. It is adorned with a profusion of woodcuts, chiefly portraits and views of old houses, and with pretty borders, headpieces, and tailpieces, of a pleasant antiquated style. In the class of publications having an artistic interest we should mention a translation of the second series of *The Wonders of European Art*, by Louis Viardot; the first series of which, entitled *The Wonders of Italian Art*, appeared in English last year. The publishers are Messrs. Sampson Low, Son, and Marston. This volume includes critical notices of the most famous painters of the Spanish, German, Flemish, Dutch, and French schools, with sixteen reproductions of paintings by the Woodbury permanent process, and eleven wood engravings. There is to be a third volume, devoted to the English school of pictorial art. The same publishers have just brought out *The Wonders of Engraving*, translated from a French work by M. Georges Duplessis. It professes to give an account of the history of wood-engraving, copper-plate-engraving, line-engraving, and etching, in Italy, Germany, Flanders, and Holland, as well as in France, and even in England; but it seems to be incomplete and superficial. It is furnished with above forty illustrations, some of them reproduced by the autotype process, by Messrs. Cundall and Fleming.

The clever and amiable young lady, whoever she may be, by whose bright pen and skilful pencil the "Voyages on Zigzag" of an English tourist party in Switzerland and the Tyrol, Southern France and Germany, and Northern Italy, have been depicted in three former publications, now delights us with another. *Zigzagging amongst Dolomites*, published by Messrs. Longmans, is a volume filled with etchings from her sketch-book and scraps of narrative or description from a diary, which contain a wonderful amount of "nature and human nature," of truth and fun and social pleasantness, graced with the air of high-bred refinement and purity that belongs to an English gentlewoman, go where she may. The Dolomites, a geological title, are that group of the Eastern Alps which divide the Tyrol from the upland Venetian territory about Cadore, the birthplace of Titian, lately displayed to us in Mr. Gilbert's interesting work. The friends who rambled in this picturesque region last summer, F. and E., the bold masculine climbers of mountain peaks; L. and C., the ladies who drew and wrote; G., who simply enjoyed; and Mrs. C., the lady in spectacles, whose mingled rashness and timidity gave so much amusement to her companions, had a very happy time of it. We part with them in Bavaria, at the village of Ober-Ammergau, where they saw the famous mystery-play of Christ's Passion. The next we shall mention of the illustrated table-books is *The Cat's Pilgrimage* (Edmonstone and Douglas, publishers), by an author no less grave than Mr. James Anthony Froude, M.A., the well-known historian of the Tudor reigns. It is a moral allegory of that kind in which beasts and birds are supposed capable of reasoning, reflection, and conversation; the cat goes forth in search of happiness, and finds that its secret source lies in constant work or mental occupation. There are six illustrations by "J. B." *Sketches of the Seaside and Country*, by Phiz (Ward, Lock, and Tyler), is a set of some thirty droll designs, representing cockney holiday adventures: these are produced by the graphotype process. Mr. Edward Lear, the Mediterranean traveller and landscape-painter, whose talent for diverting nonsense was long since proved, now presents us with a volume (published by Mr. R. J. Bush, Charing-cross) of *Nonsense—Songs, Stories, Botany, and Alphabet*, in which his fancy runs riot among its droll creations, expressed in pictures, or in prose and verse. *Child Life*, a small book issued by Messrs. G. Routledge and Sons, is a series of comments, familiar in their style and tender in their spirit, on the little incidents of the nursery, adapted by Crichton Campbell from the German of Rudolf Reichenau. The engravings are from the designs of Oscar Pletsch, who draws children better than any artist in book-illustration, except the authoress of "Voyages on Zigzag," and of that sweetest infant gossip, "Our Children's Story." Messrs. Macmillan and Co. bring out *Mores Ridiculi*, a new series of the intensely-coloured prints from Mr. J. E. Rogers's very laughable designs to illustrate popular nursery rhymes. "Sing a Song of Sixpence," with the King, the Queen, the Maid, and the Dickey-Bird, all doing what they have to do, while the Four-and-Twenty Blackbirds rise out of the opened Pie, is one of the best we have seen.

We desire to notice several new books, not of the highly-decorated sort, whose interest of subject, originality of thought, and literary merits claim a certain degree of attention. Professor Seeley's *Lectures and Essays*, published by Messrs. Macmillan and Co., have mostly appeared in magazines, or have been orally delivered to public audiences. They treat of Roman Imperialism, the politics and poetry of Milton, the

principles of Art, University liberal education, the teaching of English in schools, the Church as a teacher of morality, and the study of political science. Four separate books, by different authors, relating their observations of the late extraordinary military transactions between Germany and France, have already been put into our hands. *What I Saw of the War*, by the Hon. C. Allanson Winn, is published by Messrs. W. Blackwood and Sons; it narrates his two months' campaigning with the Prussian army, and the battles of Spicheren, Gorze, and Gravelotte. *On the Trail of the War*, by Mr. Alexander Innes Shand, a correspondent of the *Daily News*, takes the direction of Weissenburg, Wörth, and Strasbourg; it is published by Messrs. Smith, Elder, and Co. *The War of 1870, Events and Incidents of the Battle-Fields* (Messrs. Chapman and Hall), is by a French gentleman, the Count de la Chapelle, who acted as special correspondent of the *Standard* with the French army at Metz and in the neighbourhood of Sedan. Messrs. Tinsley publish *From Sedan to Saarbrück*, by way of Verdun, Gravelotte, and Metz; the author of which is an officer of the Royal Artillery, and a professional critic of military affairs. More agreeable to our feelings, though we are painfully conscious of the change since it was written, is *Fair France: Impressions of a Traveller*, published by Messrs. Hurst and Blackett. The author is Mrs. Craik, formerly Miss Mulock, whose "John Halifax, Gentleman," and many subsequent works of wholesome and delightful fiction, have gained her the esteem of a host of readers. Among the lighter and smaller new books, we may notice Mrs. Freeling Broderip's pretty *Whispers of a Shell*, or sea-stories, published by Messrs. Griffith and Farran; and *Stories About*, by Lady Barker, wife of Mr. F. Napier Broome, who gave us such a pleasant record of her *Station Life in New Zealand*. The latter is published by Macmillan; and the stories are "about" Jamaica, camp life in India, monkeys, horses, boys, and dogs, a cruel negress, and one or two incidents of lonely shepherd life in the Canterbury Plains.

The picture-books and story-books intended more especially for the use of children are so numerous that we can only take notice of some above the rank of treats for mere babies. But we must first refer to those acceptable to boys and girls of a certain age and degree of intelligence, who desire to be informed as well as entertained. The present season of the year produces, as usual, some literary annuals for the juvenile public. The best of these, *Aunt Judy's Christmas Volume for Young People*, edited by Mrs. Alfred Gatty, author of "Parables from Nature," is published by Messrs. Bell and Daldy, with illustrations by George Cruikshank, F. Kehl, F. Gilbert, and others, and a photographic view of the interior of a doll's house in the reign of Queen Anne. Messrs. Routledge issue their *Every Boy's Annual*, edited by Mr. Edmund Routledge, with contributions from several popular writers, and effective engravings. *The Modern Playmate*, compiled and edited by the Rev. J. G. Wood, with six hundred illustrations, tells how to play every kind of game, sport, or diversion that has ever delighted youth. It is published by Mr. F. Warne, and will be an acceptable gift to boys of ten or twelve. *Peter Parley's Annual*, with coloured pictures, is published by Mr. B. George, of Hatton-garden; *Old Merry's Annual*, by Messrs. Hodder and Stoughton; the *Children's Hour Annual*, by Messrs. Johnstone, Hunter, and Co., of Edinburgh. All these have their merits. The *Children's Sunday Album* consists of short stories, by the author of "A Trap to Catch a Sunbeam." Routledge's *Album for Children*, by Mrs. Charles Heaton, is the best book of its class we have seen, adapted especially to little girls from five to seven years; its easy pieces of alternate prose and verse, each within a page of clear large type, are pleasant, wise, and pretty; the engravings, a hundred in number, are from designs by Millais, Birket Foster, Gilbert, Wolf, and Zwecker; and the price of this elegant little volume is very small.

We have to acknowledge the publication of the following original novels in three volumes:—"Six Months Hence," being passages from the life of Maria, née Secretan (Smith, Elder, and Co.); "Monk of Monk's Own," by Lugh Knight (Sampson Low, Son, and Marston). The next mentioned are novels in two volumes:—"The Value of Fosterstown; a Tale of Irish Life," by A. M. Donelan (Chapman and Hall); "The Margravine; a Story of the Turf," by W. G. Craven; and "Contraband; or, a Losing Hazard," by G. J. Whyte-Melville (both also published by Messrs. Chapman and Hall). The subjoined is a list of single tales in one volume:—"Bought with a Price," by John Pomeroy (Tinsley Brothers); "The Victory of the Vanquished; a Tale of the First Century," by the Author of "The Schönberg-Cotta Family" (T. Nelson and Sons); "A Visit to My Discontented Cousin" (Longmans, Green, and Co.); "Murielle; or, Further Glimpses of Life in France"—a sequel to "Marie" (Bell and Daldy); "Diary of a Novelist," by the Author of "Rachel's Secret" (Hurst and Blackett); "Labour Stands on Golden Feet," by Heinrich Zschokke, translated by Dr. Yeats (Cassell); "The Spanish Brothers; a Tale of the Sixteenth Century," by the Author of "The Bark Year of Dundee" (T. Nelson and Sons); "The Grey House on the Hill," by the Hon. Mrs. Greene (T. Nelson); "The Fishing-Girl," translated from the Norwegian of Bjornstern Bjornson by Augusta Plesner and Frederika Richardson (Cassell); "The Fisher-Girl," another translation, by Sivert and Elizabeth Hjerleid, translators of "Ovind" (Trübner and Co.); "Love and Life in Norway," translated from the same Norwegian author by the Hon. Augusta Bethell and Miss Plesner (Cassell); "Aunt Judith's Recollections; a Tale of the Eighteenth Century" (Seeley, Jackson, and Halliday); "Esther West," by Isa Craig Knox (Cassell).

Of the publications not serial, and consisting chiefly of more or less instructive fiction, sometimes mixed with historical or geographical details, the following may be recommended as books for boys:—"In the Wilds of Africa," by W. H. G. Kingston (T. Nelson and Sons); "Marmaduke Merry, the Midshipman," a tale of naval adventures, by W. H. G. Kingston (Bemrose and Sons); "In the Eastern Seas; or, the Regions of the Bird of Paradise," by the same author (T. Nelson and Sons); "Hearts of Oak," stories of early English adventure, by W. Noel Sainsbury (Bradbury, Evans, and Co.); "At the South Pole; or, Adventures of Richard Pengelly, Mariner," by W. H. G. Kingston (Cassell, Petter, and Galpin); "Wonderful Escapes," revised and augmented from the French of F. Bernard, by Richard Whiteing (Cassell); "Stories About Boys," by Ascott R. Hope (W. P. Nimmo, Edinburgh); "Tales of the Civil Wars," by the Rev. H. C. Adams (G. Routledge and Sons); "Tales of the Saracens," by Barbara Hutton (Griffith and Farran); "Stories of the Olden Time," from De Joinville and Froissart, by M. Jones (Cassell); "The Holiday Camp; or, Three Days' Picnic," by Robert St. John Corbet, author of "Mince-Pie Island" (Routledge); "Out on the Pampas; or, the Young Settlers," by G. A. Henty (Griffith and Farran); "The Floating Light on the Goodwin Sands," by R. M. Ballantyne (James Nisbet and Co.); "Cris Fairlie's Boyhood; a Tale of an Old Town," by Mrs. Eiloart (F. Warne and Co.); "The Orville College Boys," by Mrs. Henry Wood (Routledge); "Our Domestic Pets," an account of some tame or captive animals, by the Rev. J. G. Wood

(Routledge); "Our Feathered Companions," an account of British birds, by the Rev. T. Jackson (S. W. Partridge and Co.)

We would direct attention to these, among the books for girls:—"A Parisian Family," by Madame Guizot de Witt, translated by the author of "John Halifax, Gentleman" (Sampson Low, Son, and Marston); "Silken Cords and Iron Fetters," by Maude J. Franc (Sampson Low); "Model Women," by W. Anderson (Hodder and Stoughton); "Stepping Heavenward, a Tale of Home-Life," by the author of "The Flower of the Family" (T. Nelson and Sons); "Patience Strong," by Adeline Whitney, author of "Faith Gartney's Girlhood" and "The Gayworthys" (Routledge); "We Girls," a Home Story, by the same author (Sampson Low); "One Trip More," by the author of "Mary Powell" (Cassell); "Four Messengers," by E. M. H. (Bell and Daldy); "When I was a Little Girl," by the author of St. Olave's; with seven charming designs by Lorenz Fröhlich (Macmillan).

In the juvenile department we may also notice "Stories for Young People," by Mrs. F. Marshall Ward (Bemrose and Sons); "Original Fables," by Mrs. Prosser (Religious Tract Society); "Home Chat with our Young Folk on People and Things they See or Hear About," by C. L. Matéaux (Cassell); "The Story of Our Doll," by Mrs. G. Cupples (T. Nelson); Dr. Duleken's translations of "Poultry Meg," "Put Off is Not Done With," and other little stories by Hans Christian Andersen; Routledge's "Illustrated British Spelling Book and Reading Book," "The Picture Gallery of the Nations" (Religious Tract Society); and "The Nations of the World," by Madame Beslie Parkes Belloc.

The thirty-ninth annual Christmas performance of Handel's "Messiah," by the Sacred Harmonic Society, will take place at Exeter Hall, on Friday next, the 23rd inst. The principal vocalists will be Madame Sinico, Madame Viardot Garcia, Mr. Vernon Rigby, and Signor Foli.

MONETARY AND COMMERCIAL TRANSACTIONS.

(From our City Correspondent.)

The action taken by Prussia with reference to the Luxembourg Treaty has unfavourably affected the Stock Markets. Business in consequence has been much restricted, and the quotations have had a drooping tendency. The Consol market has been depressed, and the quotations have fallen about $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. For Delivery the quotation has been 91 $\frac{1}{2}$ to 91 $\frac{3}{4}$ ex div.; and for January, 91 $\frac{1}{2}$ to 91 $\frac{3}{4}$ ex div.; Reduced and New Three per Cents, 91 $\frac{1}{2}$ to 91 $\frac{3}{4}$; Bank Stock, 110 to 112; Exchequer Bills, 10s. to 10s. prem.; India Five per Cents, 110 to 110 $\frac{1}{2}$ ex div.; and India Bonds, 22s. to 22s. prem.

Railway Stocks, with the exception of Caledonian, which has risen about 5 per cent, have been dull and drooping: Metropolitan, 63 $\frac{1}{2}$ to 64; Caledonian, 86 $\frac{1}{2}$ to 87; Brighton, 40 $\frac{1}{2}$ to 41; South-Eastern, 74 to 75; Great Northern, A, 124 to 125; Great Eastern, 84 $\frac{1}{2}$ to 85; North-Eastern, 113 $\frac{1}{2}$ to 114; Midland, 127 $\frac{1}{2}$ to 128; North-Western, 127 $\frac{1}{2}$ to 128; and Great Western, 64 $\frac{1}{2}$ to 65.

The Foreign Bond Market has been quiet, and the quotations have ruled easier: Egyptian, 1868, 77 to 77 $\frac{1}{2}$; Italian, 1861, 55 $\frac{1}{2}$ to 56; Mexican, 1863, 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ to 13; Peruvian, 1865, 91 $\frac{1}{2}$ to 92; Spanish, 1867, 31 to 31 $\frac{1}{2}$; Ditto, 1869, 31 to 31 $\frac{1}{2}$; Turkish Five per Cents, 43 $\frac{1}{2}$ to 44; Ditto, 1869, 50 to 50 $\frac{1}{2}$. French Scrip, $\frac{1}{2}$ dis. to $\frac{1}{2}$ prem. American Securities have been flat. United States 5-20, 1862, Bonds, 84 $\frac{1}{2}$ to 85; Ditto, 1865, 88 to 88 $\frac{1}{2}$.

The feature of the week has been the introduction by the London Joint-Stock Bank of a loan for £3,000,000, being portion of a loan for £7,500,000 for the North German Confederation. The price of issue is 95 $\frac{1}{2}$, and the rate of interest is 5 per cent. The loan has been fairly received, and the quotation has risen to $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{1}{4}$ premium.

The directors of the Elbow Vale Steel, Iron, and Coal Company (Limited) have declared an interim dividend of 10s. per share.

A prospectus has been issued of the London Tramways Company (Limited), with a capital of £250,000, in shares of £10, for the purpose of consolidating the two companies known as the Metropolitan Street Tramways Company and the Piccadilly, Peckham, and Greenwich Street Tramways Company, into one undertaking. The former of these has constructed the lines from Brixton and Clapham to near Westminster Bridge, and is to receive £292,700 in shares of the consolidated undertaking for a like number of its own shares; and the second company is to be paid its actual outlay for so much of its authorised lines as are yet constructed—namely, the first section of the Greenwich line from Blackheath-hill to New cross, and part of the continuation to East Greenwich. The remaining balance of share capital, with £70,000 of debenture capital, will, it is stated, be sufficient for the completion of the entire scheme and to leave an adequate margin for working capital.

An application has been made to the committee of the Stock Exchange that the three issues of the Spanish 1867, 1869, and 1870 Stock, which are similar in every respect, and dealt in separately, should henceforth be quoted together on the official list, following the precedent adopted with the various Portuguese loans.

The Discount Market has continued quiet. Capital has been plentiful, and the inquiry for accommodation has been only to a moderate extent. Three months' paper has been taken at $\frac{1}{4}$ per cent.

The Bank of Russia has advanced its rate from 8 to 9 per cent. A fair quantity of bullion has been received during the week. There has been very little export inquiry, and further sums have been sent into the Bank.

In the rates of foreign exchange no alteration has taken place. The report of the North Metropolitan Tramways Company has been issued. The receipts on the section extending from Whitechapel Church to Bow Church, two miles and a half of double line, which was opened on May 9, which cost £46,500, have, during the last six months, amounted to a net profit of £3024. Out of this the payment of a dividend at the rate of 12 per cent per annum, is recommended, which will absorb £2799, leaving £1131 to be carried forward. The directors expect to open the line as far as Stratford by the middle of January, and the authorised line along Moorfields-street, City-road, and Islington, to Highbury and Highgate, early in the ensuing summer.

THE MARKETS.

CORN EXCHANGE.—The grain trade has ruled dull and drooping throughout the week. The unfavourable weather has caused a general depreciation in the condition of the samples, and prices of both English and foreign wheat are about 1s. per quarter lower on the week. Oats and maize are also lower; but no alteration has taken place in the value of beans or peas. Barley and flour have sold on rather easier terms.

Arrivals this Week:—English and Scotch: Wheat, 370; barley, 150; peas, 20 qrs. Foreign: Wheat, 4280; barley, 9700; oats, 5610; maize, 5200 qrs.; flour, 710 sacks and 3560 barrels.

English Currencies.—Red wheat, 45s. to 52s.; barley, 29s. to 34s.; malt, 30s. to 35s.; oats, 21s. to 30s.; beans, 28s. to 50s.; peas, 30s. to 42s.; per qr.; flour, 28s. to 47s. per 280 lb.

Grain.—The following are the quantities sold and the average prices:—

	For the week ending Dec. 10, 1870.	Average Price.	For the week ending Dec. 10, 1870.	Average Price.
Wheat	72,579	32s. 2d.	47,114	32s. 2d.
Barley	21,142	35s. 9d.	8,114	35s. 9d.
Oats	5,067	23s. 7d.	1,114	23s. 7d.

Hay and Straw.—The market to-day was not so active as on the previous day. The demand was inactive, and prices were barely supported. Prime meadow hay, 130s. to 140s.; inferior ditto, 110s. to 120s.; prime first-cut clover, 130s. to 140s.; inferior ditto, 115s. to 125s.; prime second-cut clover, 120s. to 135s.; inferior ditto, 105s. to 115s.; and straw, 30s. to 35s. per cord.

Colonial Produce.—There is little change to notice in the colonial produce markets. Tea has sold quietly, at late rates; while prices have been well supported for fine sugars. Coffee has been steady in value and demand. Rice and fat have been inquired after.

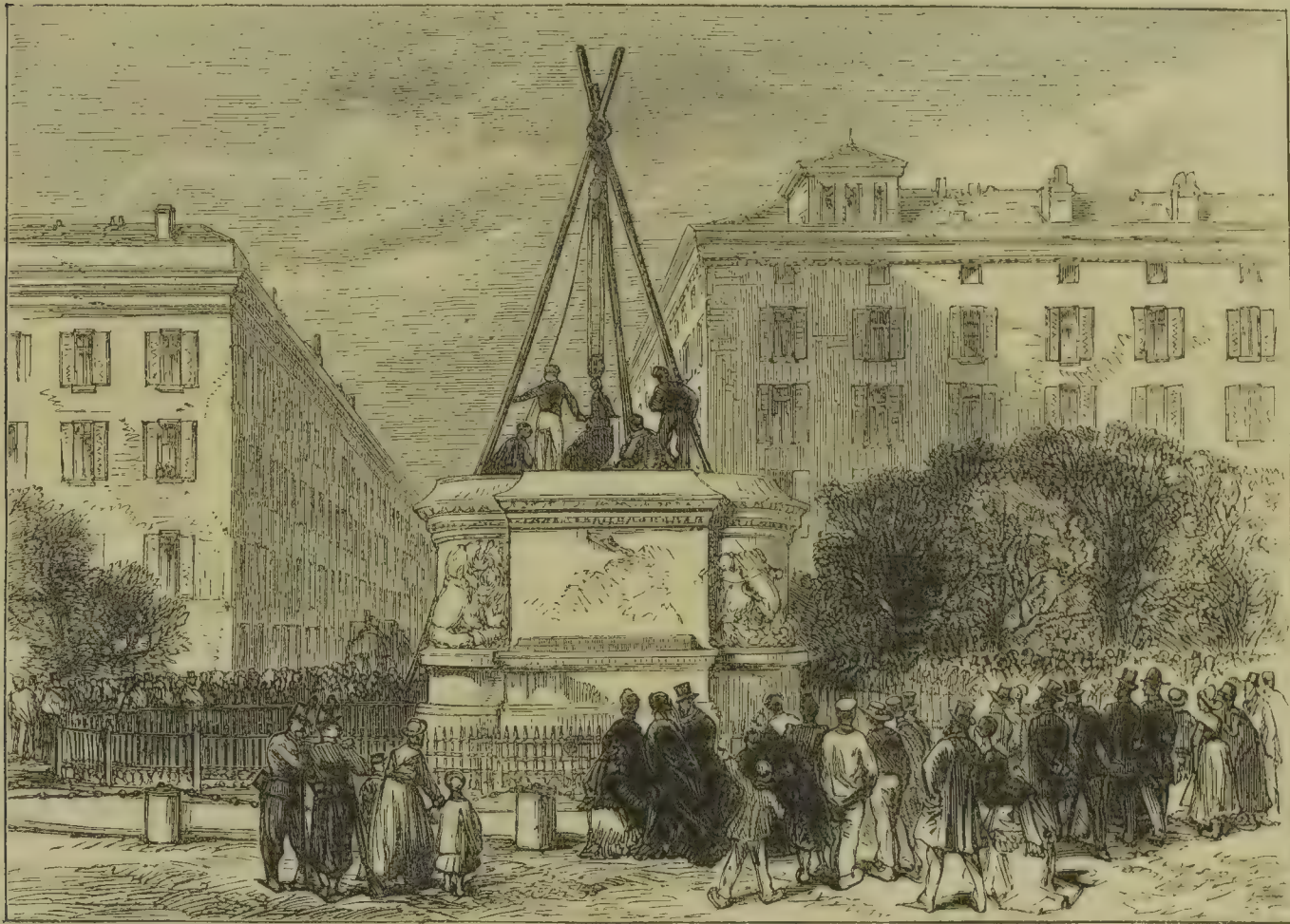
Cattle.—The Christmas market of fat cattle was held on Monday; and, considering the character of the past season, the beasts were in much better condition than could have been reasonably expected. Trade ruled steady, and a full supply was demanded and paid for both beasts and sheep, and a clearance was effected at the close of the market.

Metropolitan Cattle Market (Thursday).—There was less animation observable throughout the cattle trade to-day, in consequence of the milder weather, and Monday's currents were scarcely sustained. As regards beasts, the supplies were moderate. Transactions in all qualities were restricted, and prices occasionally experienced a slight decline. There was a fair show of sheep in the pens, of which a moderate quantity were in tolerably good condition. Inquiry for either inferior or prime animals was inactive, the former being disposed of on somewhat easier terms. The best Downs and halfbreeds sold at 6s. to 6s. 4d. per 8 lb. The calf trade was scarcely so brisk, but prices were unchanged. Pigs met a quiet sale, at about Monday's quotations.

Per 8 lb. to sink the offal:—Coarse and inferior beasts, 3s. 6d. to 4s. 4d.; second quality ditto, 4s. 6d. to 4s. 10d.; prime large oxen, 5s. 4d. to 5s. 10d.; prime quality ditto, 5s. 10d. to 6s. 2d.; coarse and inferior sheep, 3s. 6d. to 4s. 1d.; second quality ditto, 4s. 4d. to 4s. 8d.; prime coarse-woolled sheep, 5s. 2d. to 5s. 10d.; prime Southdown ditto, 6s. 6d. to 6s. 4d.; large coarse ewes, 3s. 2d. to 4s. 4d.; prime small ditto, 5s. 6d. to 6s. 2d.; large hogs, 4s. 4d. to 5s. 2d.; small porkers, 3s. 6d. to 4s. 8d.; and quarter-old sows, 21s. to 22s. each. Total supply:—English: Beasts, 1350; sheep, 2410; calves, 71; pigs, 16. Foreign: Beasts, 112; sheep, 1890; calves, 284; pigs, 10.



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PREPARING FOR THE SIEGE OF LYONS: STORING FLOUR AND RICE IN THE CASINO DES ARTS.



STORING FLOUR IN THE CHURCH OF ST. NIZIER, LYONS.

MEMBERS OUT OF PARLIAMENT.

There are many neophytes still in the House of Commons; and, on the whole, the proportion of them who are aspirants is considerable. A recent appearance of Mr. West before his constituents, at Ipswich, naturally brings to mind that, amongst the aspirants, he is decidedly aspiring. He possesses what may be an advantage, or a disadvantage, according to circumstances—namely, that he looks much younger than he really is. That he is not without capability he has shown on more than one occasion; but any position he may have attained in the House is mainly owing to a remarkable modest assurance which characterises him. Without being unduly forward or assuming, he is under the influence of a composure which never fails him; and, if he does not speak exactly as one having authority, he delivers himself with an easy consciousness that he knows what he is talking about. He is judiciously brief in his addresses, works diligently in committees on bills, and has produced some legislation in reference to the legal jurisdiction of the county palatine of Lancaster, of which he is Attorney-General. Altogether, he has about him an air of getting on quietly which might well be a recommendation to an electorate. Any stranger observing Mr. Noel, as he flits calmly and without a vestige of fuss in and out of the House, would suppose him to be a type of young memberdom, whereas he has a Parliamentary experience of twenty-three years, and has gradually worked himself to the responsible semi-official function of manager of the Conservative party. Probably no man needs less to appeal to the feelings of his constituents than he; for long personal and Parliamentary connection—to say nothing of the position in his party which he occupies—would be sufficient to keep him *en rapport* with them, without his taking the trouble to give them an annual account of his stewardship. But he has lately done so, and shown that a member whose business in the House is exactly the converse of talking can adequately expound that political situation in the abstract which in practice he has to view in a very concrete sense indeed. As a chief “whip,” Mr. Noel has the faculty of being on the best terms with men of all parties.

In the case of Mr. W. Fowler, member for Cambridge town, a special distinction has been thrust upon him. He was tolerably prominent before, taking up early in his new memberdom one of those places in the House which practical men of good acquirements, a certain self-confidence, and fair readiness of speech, soon do, if they do not seem to be in too great a hurry; but he will go down to Hansardian fame as having been the involuntary cause of reviving a privilege of the House of Commons which had not been exercised for many a long year—that of excluding strangers during a debate. No matter what the subject, it was thought by a gentleman so delicate and tender as Mr. Craufurd, of Ayr, that Parliamentary purity required that no ears should be shocked except those of members themselves; and so, at the right moment, he uttered the usual shibboleth, “I spy strangers in the galleries.” There was a pause almost awful. The Speaker hesitated; and almost everyone waited to see whether a practical joke was to be persisted in. But virtuous indignation was unappeasable, and, the law being imperative, the word was given, and out went the spectators and recorders proper, though amateurs entitled to remain within set about to produce meagre accounts of what was said, which, according to all testimony, was nothing in comparison with much that appears unchallenged in newspapers every day. One result is certain—namely, that alteration will be made in the rule which enables an individual member to close the House to the outer world at his mere *ipse dixit*. As to Mr. Fowler, he is recalled to memory in reference to this occurrence by the fact that he has been with his electoral friends at Cambridge, working the abolition of University tests under the very shadow of intolerance and stay-progress, which more or less exists in the colleges as distinguished from the town.

If he was dealt with in proportion to his lingual activity since he has been a representative of the people, Mr. Rylands ought to have a whole volume to himself. He is ubiquitous in debate, and, besides, cuts out special work for his own doing, in the shape of motions developed in speeches of considerable length, and, truth to say, not without a certain force of argument and illustration. His temperament might be described as a mixture of good-humour and cast iron; and though he is sufficiently animated—not using that word, however, in its most alluring sense—he is imperturbable by any of the usual modes of interruption and hint that his audience has had enough. To his purpose and his subject he sticks doggedly, let the members for the young aristocracy ejaculate noisily as they will. Hours in the early morning of ordinary days, and afterwards on Wednesdays, are all the same to him. When he has something to say, he says it, and says it all; and even when his pertinacity is getting most vexatious, the smiling good-nature with which he takes opposition almost disarms the criticism, which consists in inarticulate roaring. A glance at a speech which he has lately made at Warrington, for which borough he sits, is as nearly as possible an exemplification of his Parliamentary way, for he touches on every possible topic, gives a dogmatic opinion on each, and, taking up a specialty which he has worked in the House, dwells upon it with the unctious which every man displays when he is dealing with public matter which he believes he has invented, or at least, made his own.

Every now and then, when certain members appear autumnally before the electorate, body to which they owe service, one is reminded of a curious process of absorption which is generally going on in the House. Now and again a young member comes for a moment to the front, suggests ideas of capacity, and so on; then disappears and is heard of no more, and seen but in the division-list. Such is the case of Mr. St. Aubyn, who has for some years interruptedly represented West Cornwall. His having of late held commune with his constituents brings to mind that he had hardly been returned for the first time when the duty of moving the Address in answer to the Speech from the Throne was awarded to him; and it is within recollection that he showed spirit, adequate command of words, and most of those qualities which, if then nascent, would, if cultured, have borne the usual Parliamentary fruit, as it is developed in a more or less back-bench member. But from that day to this, so far as memory serves, he has not come forward even with a suggestion in Committee; though of this, of course, one cannot be quite sure. Then, perhaps, it may have happened that he had chosen that useful Parliamentary part which is known as business-memberdom, which involves a great deal of work and little fame except in the consideration of those who have to see that the mere machinery of legislation is in proper working. Even in this regard, however, there does not seem to be any record of Mr. St. Aubyn's prominence; and it must be taken that he has allowed himself to be absorbed, and belied the predictions about him which were current at the time of his first appearance.

FINE ARTS.

A number of French pictures are being exhibited at the German Gallery, New Bond-street—a rather awkwardly, if not ominously, named locale. They are ostensibly the “contributions” of a new “Society of French Artists;” but we understand that the bulk, at least, of the collection is the property of a Parisian dealer, the present “director” of the gallery, and a portion of them have been lately exhibited in the Haymarket.

Several are by deceased French artists, including David's ghastly picture of the Death of Marat in the bath, from Prince Napoleon's collection. This picture was painted from the corpse of the tyrant; the artist himself was a member of the Convention; and the work was executed for their meeting-hall. Among other pictures by deceased artists are several examples of Theodore Rousseau, two by Delacroix; a Greuze, with numerous figures; a poor, ill-drawn example of Gericault; and two small, unimportant specimens of Ingres—personations of the “Iliad” and “Odyssey.” Formed for a Parisian public, this collection is almost devoid of the class of works which English dealers have been in the habit of introducing as specially suited to English tastes. There are no Frères, Duvergiers, and Bonheurs; no Meissoniers or Gérômes, and few domestic interiors or sentimental and childish subjects. As a whole, the collection is in certain respects of higher artistic rank than we have been accustomed to see in London, and some Paris celebrities are publicly represented almost for the first time in this country. But, on the other hand, the faults of the modern French school are strikingly apparent. That morbid taste for the horrible, that feline relish for blood which seems to be an inherent trait of French character, however smooth its superficial refinement, is illustrated here by other works besides the Death of Marat, which go far to convert the room into a “chamber of horrors.” One of these, by M. Regnault, “An Execution in the Alhambra,” represents a decapitated corpse, with the neck and its spouting arteries turned towards the spectator; the blood splashed and pouring down marble steps, and the dismembered head lying, with glaring eyes, on a lower step. Above, the stalwart executioner coolly wipes his sword. The background is formed of the magnificent arabesque walls of the Moorish palace, gorgeous in colour, but wanting in those grey atmospheric tints seen in gold, as well as all other surfaces. Another large picture, an equestrian portrait of General Prim, reining-in a superb black charger, exemplifies that theatrical exaggeration and that fondness for bravura of handling which are also besetting vices of a section of the French school. These faults, with extravagantly forced effects, a servile following of art-traditions (here particularly evinced by imitating the unbrowned aspect of the works of Rembrandt and other old masters), the frequent sacrifice of natural modesty and simplicity, and the glorification of the mere material, are other characteristics of recent French art, especially in the department of landscape. Nearly all French landscape is intensely conventional; it is Nature not interpreted but metamorphosed by art; or the artist takes her place outright with artifices of style, or a *chique* of his own. To the careful training of French artists, their thorough draughtsmanship, their learning in technicalities, we have have often borne testimony. Still the faults and conventional tendencies we have glanced at are prominent in numerous instances here. Always in extremes, we have sometimes, as in M. Corot's works, a dry and opaque yet withal airy and elegant manner; or a daring sketchy indefiniteness, such as M. Daubigny's; or the canvas is flooded with juicy glazings out of which stand sparkling high lights à la Rembrandt, as in Jules Dupré's landscapes; or the pigments are loaded till the impasto is about a quarter of an inch thick, with (see the forest scenes by M. Diaz) trees telling as though composed of ebony and ivory, and describing lines as of forked lightning. In short, this small collection will afford a rich treat to persons of more artificial dilettante taste—everywhere there is great learning of the schools, great mastery of the language or technique of art; but many of its contents will not satisfy, if they do not offend, persons with an unsophisticated and more direct recollection of nature. Of how sedulously the modern French painter forms himself on the old masters we have a noteworthy indication in the “Copy of Titian” by M. Ricard, which is scarcely distinguishable from the original.

The private view of the Exhibition for the Benefit of the French Peasantry takes place to-day (Saturday), in part of the rooms of the Society of British Artists, Suffolk-street. The exhibition will open to the public on Monday next.

In consequence of Mr. G. G. Scott's recent illness, and the necessity of repose, he will not continue his lectures at the Royal Academy this season. Mr. Barry will, it is understood, supply the professor's place.

Mr. McDowell has resigned his full membership of the Royal Academy, thus taking a place on the list of honorary retired academicians.

Notwithstanding the war, Paris will, it is said, be well represented at the international exhibition, South Kensington. Belgium wants more space than can be given, Bavaria has intimated that the whole of the space allotted to her will be taken up by a display of fine art. The Dusseldorf Academy has given permission for the exhibition of their pictures and sculptures; and the Royal Porcelain Factory of Berlin will send a collection of porcelain for exhibition.

The medals gained by the successful students at the Royal Academy were distributed by Sir Francis Grant, the president, on Saturday evening. The president adverted to the weakness which was frequently observable in the painting of the students, as contra-distinguished from their drawing, and stated that, with regard to the new school of painting in connection with the Academy, an important announcement would be made in the course of a few days. The forthcoming exhibition of the works of old masters would be one to which the students ought to pay frequent visits. It would far surpass the previous exhibition. Her Majesty, ever foremost in encouraging the arts, had graciously promised to contribute some of the choicest of the works contained in the Royal galleries, and the exhibition would be further enriched by contributions from the Earl of Dudley, the Marquis of Westminster, and others. The exhibition would also contain a number of noble works by deceased members of the Royal Academy.—Sir Francis Grant distributed the prizes to the art-students of the South Kensington District Schools, yesterday, in the lecture-theatre of the South Kensington Museum.

The annual distribution of prizes to the students of the School of Art, Great Portland-street, took place on Thursday week.—Sir Matthew Digby Wyatt, F.S.A., presiding. Mr. Stewart, the master, read a report, which showed the institution to be in a most flourishing condition.

The new street from Blackfriars to the Mansion House is not likely to be opened until June or July next.

LITERATURE.

Tent Life in Siberia. By George Kennan. With a Map. (Sampson Low, Son, and Marston.) How one thing grows out of another, how good comes from evil (if, indeed, it be ever the case), how man proposes and God disposes, is continually being exhibited in some remarkable manner. And here is an instance of a pleasant book due to a disastrous enterprise. Perhaps the dazzling success of the Atlantic cable, or cables, has obliterated even the remembrance, so far as the world in general is concerned, of that Western Union Telegraph Company which was formed, some half dozen or fewer years ago, to carry out the boldly-conceived idea of building “an overland line to Europe via Alaska, Behring's Strait, and Siberia;” but to that company the tracers of first causes must assign the reason for the existence of the volume hereby recommended to public attention. For the author took no inconsiderable part in the preliminary investigations necessary for the commencement of the company's projected enterprise. He has, however, very judiciously abstained from writing a history of the ill-starred association, and has confined himself to an account of what he saw, heard, and experienced during a tour of exploration in far from well-known, but far from uninteresting, regions, and amongst barbaric, but not altogether inhospitable, peoples. He has somewhat to tell about Koraks, and Chookchees, and Tongos, and Lamootkees, and Monzhours, and Gilyaks, and others whose very names will now, for the first time, perhaps, loom like ethnographical apparitions before the eyes of the English reader. So many and so startling were the adventures he met with, by sea and land, by river and mountain, amidst snow and ice, in a climate where temperature is sometimes a meaningless word, and thermometer an instrument for which there is no application, that, to describe how often he was in peril and how often in suffering, he might almost adapt to his own case the celebrated enumeration of St. Paul. But his narrative is throughout enlivened by the characteristic sprightliness and humour of American travellers and adventurers, and various sketches of scenery are remarkable for their graphic and vivid colouring. A Transatlantic exaggeration, however, and a Transatlantic affectation of the rhapsodical and the grandiose may seem occasionally to mar the effect, so far as the severer tastes of Cisatlantic readers are concerned.

Sketches from America. By John White, Fellow of Queen's College, Oxford. (Sampson Low, Son, and Marston.) There is certainly no lack of books relating to America; and there is no doubt that America and the Americans are a subject large enough to give employment for some time to come to intelligent travellers and observant writers. And amongst them an honourable place may be cordially assigned to a fresh author, who has been encouraged to offer his own sketches for contemplation by the reflection that, plentiful as is the supply of similar works, the demand is fairly keeping pace therewith. He shows an almost punctilious dread of going over ground which has been much trodden before him; and his punctiliousness, which is far from uncommendable in itself, raises in the reader a hope—which is to a considerable extent fulfilled—of novel treatment and original views. His volume is divided into three parts, of which the first is entitled “Canada,” the second “A Picnic to the Rocky Mountains,” and the third “The Irish in America.” He writes in easy, fluent, lively, attractive style, with a dash of the well-read and cultivated scholar. He knows how to skilfully shake over his compositions the seasoning pepper-box of anecdote; and what his eyes have seen and his ears have heard he appears to be in no hurry to accept and exhibit until he have passed it through the sieve of judicious consideration. He condescends to small matters, and gives information about not very important, but nevertheless not altogether contemptible, things. It may be that most people know what a “skating-rink” is, and what delights are to be met with at that Canadian place of enjoyment. It may be, also, that many men and brethren could explain what a “toboggan” is; but is it generally known what is meant, in the Canadian sense, by a “muffin”? The word suggests an accompanying “crumpet,” as surely as Gog the inseparable Magog; and the Canadian muffin, being of the feminine gender, is always associated with a kind of crumpet or companion of the masculine gender. Indeed, it appears to be the fashion in Canada for a man to secure “a young lady for the season to share with him his sleigh-driving and other of the national amusements,” and that she should be called his muffin. “Her status,” we are told, “is a sort of temporary wifehood, limited, of course, by many obvious restrictions, but resembling wifehood in this—that, though a close and continuous relationship, it has nothing in it which shocks, and much in it which allures the Canadian mind.” The English mind is, perhaps, constituted similarly to the Canadian; but the Englishman's muffin is not calculated to produce the same effect as the Canadian's, and is even spoken of in certain circles as “sudden death.” Where the Canadians got the term from is a question involved in obscurity; but, as the advent of the muffin is in England announced by tintinnabulation, it is not impossible that some far-off source of nomenclature may be found in the sentence which tells how “nothing in a Canadian winter can roll upon wheels; everything glides upon runners, to the music of tinkling bells.” At any rate, if *lucus* may be derived à non *lucendo*, “muffin” may be supposed to come, in some roundabout way, from “tinkling bells.” For the existence of the muffin the author is, of course, the responsible authority; and there must be in England many persons who can support or gainsay his representation, and declare how far the “muffin” is a recognised institution amongst the superior orders of Canadian society. The author's remarks about “the Irish in America” are very interesting; and he tells a story, “more ludicrous than refined,” to exemplify the indignation felt by an Irishman, a “help,” who was asked by a lady if his “mistress” were at home. “No, Ma'am,” he replied, very courteously; “the fact is, I don't keep one at present.”

John. By Mrs. Oliphant. (William Blackwood and Sons.) This is a story which, by a process familiar to pullers of india-rubber and to writers of novels, is so elongated as to fill two volumes. There is little or no plot; there are two important incidents; and, for the rest, the volumes are filled with portraiture, representations of character under different lights, more or less frivolous conversation, love-making, kissing and crying, various phases in the mental and moral development of a born flirt, observations touching dress and the lady's-maid, and such other matters as a feminine hand is likely to deal with in the deffest possible fashion. And, of course, the size of a portrait may be made to vary according to the amount of canvas you wish to cover; conversation of a certain kind may be carried on to any required extent; and the petty vagaries of a born flirt are endless. The tale must be acknowledged by everybody of both genders to have considerable charms and graces; and there are, no doubt, women to whom it will appear to be an exquisite work of art, and to teem with questions of the deepest and most vital interest, and with situa-

tions of extraordinary attractiveness. To them John will, probably, display all the attributes of a gentle giant and a gigantic hero; and Fred will exhibit something more than the irritating traits of a conceited prig. Men, on the other hand, are nearly sure to yawn over John, as a tiresome, big baby; sneer at Fred as a clever but vain coxcomb; and wish that Kate had been blessed with a strong-minded mother holding sound ideas about sparing the rod and spoiling the child. Men, as well as women, will be constrained to admit that in point of literary execution the work lacks little or nothing; that it is worthy of Kate's favourite epithet, "nice;" and that, by a resolute effort maintained against the demon of drowsiness, it may be read through with pleasure, if not with ecstasy. Contempt of artificial contrivances and tricks of mechanism are, for the most part, commendable in a writer; but it is sometimes allowable to use a simple device for the purpose of relieving the almost inevitable flatness of a story which, being in its essence of the quiet sort, exercises, if it be told in strictly alphabetical order, a strain upon the reader's attention. In the present instance the element of curiosity might have been advantageously made use of by introducing John, at the very commencement, in his ambiguous position at the bank, and by gradually clearing up the points of obscurity.

On Credit. By Lady Wood. (Chapman and Hall.) Here are two particularly neat little volumes on which, as far as print, and paper, and binding, and exterior form are concerned, some taste has been expended, and from which the eye may derive some small gratification. Of the story they contain so much cannot be said, for it is a plain, unvarnished tale of vulgarity, selfishness, besottedness, brutality, and weakness. There is no plot whatever, and there is nothing in the way of literary grace to soften a blunt, revolting narrative. The pages are for the most part filled with an account containing "the whole of the disgusting details" of the life led by a married couple, of whom the male had been handsome but became hideous through habitual intoxication, and the female had been and was to the last beautiful, heartless, undutiful, criminal, and who had a family of children inferior in moral qualities to the progeny of a blue-nosed baboon. It is quite possible that the drunken captain and his lovely but hateful wife and their diabolical children, and the injudicious grandmother, and the long-suffering but by no means angelic aunt are accurately delineated; but they are not a pleasing or an instructive picture; we see as much of them as is good for us in the police reports. Nor is a course of debauchery terminating in delirium tremens, though it be depicted to the life, sufficient to atone for an absence of any incident or character whereby the weary mind may be refreshed. It is true that Mariana is at last married, and that justice is so far satisfied; but she is jerked off in a sudden, cold, unsympathetic way into the arms of a business-like banker. However, the tale or narrative may be, as it is apparently intended to be, a correct presentment of what takes place amongst officers of the heavy cavalry and their connections; and it is certainly free from any imputation of exhibiting vice and depravity save in their unadorned and naked deformity.

The Land of the Sun. By Lieutenant C. R. Low. (Hodder and Stoughton.) The author is "a humble follower in the footsteps of Haines, and Wellsted, and Ormesby;" and he claims, not without reason, to write with more authority than the self-sufficient sciolists who base a book of travel upon the hazardous foundation of a few days' or few weeks' flying visit. He certainly had unusual opportunities, and he certainly appears to have availed himself of them. As an officer, "late H. M. Indian Navy," he served for many years in Indian waters, and he seems to have made a point of generally keeping a sharp look-out even when it was not his official watch. Moreover, he is a practised writer, and there are, consequently, numerous good causes why notice should be taken of what he has written about Aden, Perim, Soomauli land, Massowah and the Red Sea, Jeddah in peace and war, the Andaman Islands, the Island of Ormuz and Bunder Abbas, or Gambroon; Muscat and Kishm, Lingah and Bahrein, the islands of Karak and Koon, El Kateef and Grane, Bussorah, ancient and modern, ancient Ctesiphon and modern Bagdad.

Tà Τραγῳδία τοῦ Βουνοῦ. ὑπὸ Ἰωάννου Δ. Λοβέρδου. (F. T. Cartwright.) Here are some Greek "songs" which may make Porson, Dawes, Elmsley, and their like turn in their graves. It is not only that the metres are such as those critics would have considered beneath the dignity of their favourite language, but that the very language is of a kind to which they could have given no countenance. For M. Loverdo has not even displayed the anachronising tendencies of M. Tricoupi and others, who make the modern Greek as like as irresistible time will allow them to the ancient, but he writes in the dialect of his native Zante. He defends his boldness by the example of Burns, who wrote Scottish; and there is something sublime, if a little ridiculous, in the truly Greek effrontery which draws a parallel between Zante and Scotland. However, the songs do not require any very intimate acquaintance with a peculiar dialect to enable the reader to get a fair notion of their quality; a moderate knowledge of modern Greek is sufficient. And a pretty careful examination leads to the conclusion that, if they do not attain to the height of poetry, they are creditable pieces of versification.

Drifted and Sifted. By the Author of "Until the Shadows Flee Away." (Edinburgh: William P. Nimmo.) This volume contains "a domestic chronicle of the seventeenth century," and the hero is that James Renwick who was "foremost among the brave spirits in the Covenanters' camp," and to whose memory, "after the lapse of nearly 200 years, a monument has recently been erected in Ayrshire." The reader must not look for dashing scenes, such as Scott has described; but there are many for whom the quiet, domestic phase of life, during troublous times, and the under-currents of the social stream have more fascination than is to be found in more conspicuous, brilliant, and boisterous incidents; and to them the book will give full satisfaction. The picture is well conceived and carefully executed; and the figures are the more pleasing for a certain not inappropriate quaintness.

Daisy Nichol. By Lady Hardy. (Sampson Low, Son, and Marston.) A she-angel, a she-demon, and a fine, honourable young man are the three characters on whom attention is chiefly riveted in this novel of the three-volume order. The she-demon accomplishes her own and her lover's misery and the premature death of the she-angel; and how she brings this triple result to pass may be best discovered from a perusal of the author's own narrative. The story is not throughout of a sombre hue; indeed, it is in parts distinguished by a most agreeable freshness and sprightliness; and there are such sketches of persons and situations as only a genial and gentle spirit could have imagined, and only a graceful hand have portrayed. The author, in fact, is least admirable in the tragic portions; they wear an artificial, strained, affected air, which renders them ineffective.

MUSIC.

THE OPERA.

The short winter season at the Royal Italian Opera terminated on Saturday—the performance since our last notice having comprised "Der Freyschütz," on Thursday, the first act of "La Figlia del Reggimento," on Friday, and a scene from "Der Freyschütz" (followed by the cloister scene from "Roberto il Diavolo"); and "Les Huguenots" on the closing night. In the first-named opera Signor Vizzani appeared as Rodolfo for the first time, and sang the music with better appreciation of its character than it sometimes receives from Italian vocalists. His great air in the first act, including the exquisite andante "Through the forests," was given with much effect. Mdlle. Titiens's fine delivery of Agata's scena, so well known in its English version as "Softly sighs," again displayed her admirable qualities as a dramatic vocalist; and Mdlle. Sinico gave the very graceful music of Annetta with excellent taste. Signor Foli's Caspar is better than his Mephistopheles, but neither is among his successful efforts.

Mdlle. Sessi having been ill, was replaced on Friday by Mdlle. Leon Duval, and only one act was given, instead of the whole of "La Figlia," as already stated. In "Les Huguenots" the only novelty was the first assumption by Signor Vizzani of the character of Raoul—an arduous part under any conditions, and rendered almost an impossibility by the singer's illness. The printed statement of this fact should have secured more indulgence from the audience. The substitution of orchestral instruments for Raoul's voice in some of the high passages of the duet septet, and the transposition of others in the great duet with Valentina, of course marred the effect of these fine and important pieces. The other features of the cast—including Mdlles. Titiens, Sinico, and Scalchi, as Valentina, Margherita, and the Page—and Signor Antonucci as Marcel—are too familiar to require comment.

The season which has just terminated commenced on Oct. 31, and has consisted of twenty-six nights and one morning performance. Eighteen different operas have been given, very few of which have been repeated. Such rapidity of change has offered great variety to the audiences which have filled the theatre, at the same time that it has imposed a severe strain on the memories and energies of the singers, and much fatigue to all concerned.

The extra performance of Beethoven's "Fidelio," announced for this night (Saturday) must be spoken of next week, in association with other celebrations of the hundredth anniversary of the composer's birth.

At last Saturday's Crystal Palace Concert the septet and the overture to "Coriolan" were the selections from Beethoven—his colossal ninth and final symphony and the choral fantasia being appropriately reserved for performance this week, in recognition of the occasion referred to above. The septet was given by all the stringed instruments of the band instead of by single players, as written—an amplification of sound being thereby obtained more adequate to the size of the great concert-room than would be the effect of only solo instruments. The clarinet, horn, and bassoon parts were doubled in the forte passages—the solo portions having been charmingly played by Messrs. Pape, Keevil, and Wootton. Fine as was the general performance, the conspicuous feature was the marvellous execution by the many first violins of the difficult and brilliant passages written for a single concerto player. The cadenza in the last movement was executed with a precision of mechanism and intonation that seemed scarcely possible of attainment under such conditions. The effect of this performance was even more striking than that of a previous similar amplification of Mendelssohn's ottet, and served still more to test the individual excellence of an orchestra that has so often proved its general superiority. Mdlle. Leon Duval and Signor Foli were the vocalists, and the remainder of the programme calls for no special notice.

The first of this winter's Saturday Popular Concerts took place last week, when the programme included Beethoven's first "Rasoumowsky" quartet, septet, and solo pianoforte sonata in G, op. 29, all finely played. Madame Arabella Goddard was the pianist; and Mdlle. R. Doria, the vocalist, in lieu of Herr Stockhausen, who was ill.

The instrumental pieces given at this week's Monday Popular Concert were the second of the Rasoumowsky quartets (in E minor), the solo sonata in D minor from op. 29, and that for piano and violoncello in A, op. 69, and the first of the two trios, op. 70, for piano, violin, and violoncello. The quartet-players were, as at Saturday's concert, MM. Straus, L. Ries, Zerbini, and Piatti; the pianist, Herr Pauer; whose names are enough to vouch for the efficient performance of the pieces specified. Herr Stockhausen was the vocalist, and Mr. Benedict accompanied.

Mr. Benedict's oratorio "St. Peter" was performed at St. James's Hall, on Tuesday evening, for the first time in London. The work was so fully noticed by us on the occasion of its production at this year's Birmingham Festival—for which it was specially commissioned and composed—that we may now briefly record its repetition here, with a success equal to that which attended its first hearing. As at Birmingham, Mr. Benedict conducted the performance; other features, in accordance with the original occasion, having been the singing of Mdlle. Titiens, Madame Patey, and Mr. Sims Reeves in the soprano, contralto, and tenor solos. Some changes and omissions have been made by the composer from his first design; the choruses "How art thou fallen," and "God spake unto Moses," being now excluded; as is the trio "How long wilt thou forget Him?" The chorus for female voices, "Fear thou not," has been entirely re-written, and several other movements more or less altered and curtailed. The result is an improvement, as tending to greater condensation; some further compression being still possible with advantage. The singing of the three vocalists named was again distinguished by the same high qualities as in the Birmingham performance. The soprano airs, "I mourn as a dove," and "Gird up thy loins," splendidly sung, produced a very marked impression; as did the several solos for contralto and tenor, Madame Patey having been encored in the air, "O Thou afflicted," and Mr. Reeves barely escaping from a repetition of "The Lord is very pitiful"—other pieces by the same singers having also called forth warm demonstrations of approval. The other encore of the evening having been the quartet, "O come let us sing," Herr Stockhausen, who sang the baritone music originally assigned to Mr. Santley, proved himself worthy of his associates and divided the honours with them, his fine singing of the pathetic air "O that my head" having been one of the special effects of the performance. The choruses were well sung, by Mr. Barnby's choir; and a full orchestra was assembled comprising many of our best instrumentalists. Mr. Benedict was received with enthusiastic applause.

The re-appearance of Madame Alboni, last week, after some years' retirement, drew a large audience to St. James's Hall, where Rossini's "Messe Solennelle" was given—the contralto solos by the great singer just named, by whom they were

sung in the earlier performances of the work in Paris. If the voice is not quite so full and rich as it was, it is still of great beauty and purity of quality; while the style and refinement of the artist, in expression and phrasing, are as admirable as ever. Madame Alboni's singing produced, throughout, a marked impression, most especially in the fine air (with chorus) "Agnus Dei," which was given with an elevation of sentiment and intense feeling that could not be transcended. The same may be said of Mr. Sims Reeves's singing in the "Domine Deus," which was another special feature in the performance. Mdlle. Titiens sang the soprano solos with the same effect as at the previous performance of the mass, noticed three weeks since; and Signor Foli was again the bass—the subordinate tenor music having been assigned to Herr Nordblom. As before, the mass was given with the original accompaniments—piano, harmonium, and harp—Mr. H. Leslie conducted, and his excellent choir sang the choruses.

Mr. Ridley Prentice's concerts at Brixton go on well. The third of his present series, on Tuesday, consisted entirely of Beethoven's music—the selection having included the "Waldstein" pianoforte solo sonata, and the first of the pianoforte trios. Mr. Prentice's own clever playing, and the co-operation of our excellent violinist Mr. H. Blagrove, and of other well-known performers, gave variety to the programme.

THE THEATRES.

STANDARD

A step in the right direction was taken at the National Theatre, Bishopsgate, on Saturday. A poetic drama in five acts was presented to an East-End audience, and was cordially accepted. It has long been felt by the thinking critic that the poetic drama had a better chance of appreciation with the earnest workers of the East than it had with the more fastidious habitués of the West-End houses. A robust and healthy intellect is needed for a sympathetic reception of blank verse dialogue and the simplicity of plot which frequently suffices for a metrical play. We need only refer in illustration to such tragedies as "Isabella; or, The Fatal Marriage," "Jane Shore," "Douglas," and "Fazio." A play of like simple structure with these was the brief but stirring drama produced for the first time, on Saturday, at the Standard, under the title of "The Wife's Tragedy," by Mrs. Edward Thomas. It deals with a terrible domestic event that happened in Paris in the last year of Louis Philippe's reign, and it is believed was an agent in the unpopularity into which the citizen-king subsequently fell. We allude to the murder of his wife by the Duke de Praslin, who perished in prison as a suicide, not without a suspicion of his escape from justice being connived at by the Court. Mrs. Thomas has thrown the transaction back into the seventeenth century, a period which gives an extra amount of probability to the incidents.

The story as told in "The Wife's Tragedy" is as follows:—The Duchess de Beauvais (Miss Edith Heraud) has taken into her service a poor young lady, named Bertha (Miss Mary Saunders), who repays her with ingratitude, and plots to supplant her in the Duke's affections. She is inspired, however, by ambition, not by love, she having a real passion for Herbert, the Duke's secretary (Mr. F. Tyars), though this she sacrifices for the sake of advancement. In the end, she sacrifices the man also, who early excites the Duke's jealousy, and is ultimately slain by him. The Duke treats his wife with the utmost cruelty, confines her to her chamber, and prohibits her from visiting her dying child, as being, in her frantic state of mind, unfit to attend upon a deathbed. Bertha hypocritically pretends to sympathise with her in her affliction; but, meanwhile, carries on her intrigue with the Duke, whom she incites to remove his wife by murder, having vainly tried, by impeaching her honour, to effect a divorce. The Duke is imprisoned for the crime. In his dungeon he is visited by Bertha, who now feels her love for Herbert too strongly, and reproaches the Duke for having killed him. Nay, she tells his Grace that she had never truly loved any other than the slain Herbert, and that her love-passages with the Duke were owing to her ambition for a coronet, not from any esteem for himself. Of course the Duke is exasperated by this disclosure, and, on her leaving his cell, seizes a dagger which she had purposely let fall, and uses it as the means of saving himself from an ignominious public execution. The play is principally composed of situations in which violent conflicts of passion are exhibited. The part of the Duke was ably acted by Mr. G. Hamilton, who deserves the more praise for his powerful portrayal of feeling from the fact that he had taken the part at a short study, in consequence of its having been surrendered by Mr. Emery, who had been originally cast for it, as we have already announced. Miss Saunders played with conscientious care and considerable force the very onerous part of Bertha, in which much versatility of talent is required. Mr. F. Tyars as the enamoured secretary was exceedingly good, and in his final conflict with the Duke wielded his weapon with skill and effect. Nor may we omit a short part played by Mr. Burt; that of a ruined gamester named Baptiste, whom the Duke had engaged to enter his private closet late at night, for the purpose of palming off the intended murder of the Duchess on him. He arrives in time to catch the infatuated Duke in the act, and to denounce him before his retainers as the murderer. This scene is wonderfully effective, and was followed by the loud plaudits of the crowded audience assembled on the occasion. One of the smallest parts was among the best acted, that of Alice, the Duchess's attendant, in which the actress displayed some extraordinary artistic qualities. The burden of the acting fell on Miss Edith Heraud, whose representation of the injured, struggling, passionate, suffering, and violently assaulted Duchess, comprehended nearly every effort of art that the most powerful actress could be expected to display. It was from beginning to end a torrent of emotion that drove all before it, and carried through the action in a most triumphant manner. The applause was frequent, and at nearly the end of every act the performers were called before the curtain. At the conclusion the authoress had to bow her acknowledgments from a private box. Altogether, the performance was a decided success.

OPERA COMIQUE.

The last representations of the French plays has included the "Pistolets de mon Père" a neatly-constructed one-act vaudeville, in which Mdlle. Déjazet appeared for the first time during the season in petticoats. The more important piece, entitled "Le Vicomte de Létorières," was produced on Monday. It is a comédie-vaudeville by Messrs. Bayard et Dumanoir, and appears to have been expressly written for the actress. It employs nearly all the company, who did full justice to the author. The present enterprise has depended not alone on Mdlle. Déjazet, but has furnished opportunity for the display of the talents of a young actress, Mdlle. Riel, in "La Joie fait Peur," and other pieces. M. Lacombe has also made his mark, more especially in the "Tigre de Bengale." Mdlle. Pauline Lyon, Mdlle. Georges, Legrenay, and Tourtois, have likewise contributed to the success of the season now drawn to a close, to be followed by an English dramatic one, commencing on Christmas Eve.



STREET IN THE 'SILK-WEAVERS' QUARTER, LYONS.

ILLUSTRATIONS OF THE WAR.

The scene represented on our front page, from a sketch taken in the Avenue de Paris at Versailles, is of a less unpleasant character than most of the series. Our Artist saw a number of little French boys and girls, whose united ages, he remarks, would not make a very old man, with their swords of lath, and an air of martial determination, parading the street in close phalanx, and singing, with the full strength of their shrill little voices—

Mourir pour la patrie!
C'est le sort le plus beau, le plus digne d'envie!

The Prussian officers and soldiers, who usually keep strict order in the streets of Versailles, with genuine German good-nature, smiled on these puny martyrs of patriotism, and allowed them to pass on. It was a welcome relief to the grim dulness of life at the head-quarters of the army

besieging Paris. A sketch taken from the Prussian look-out post at the Marly Aqueduct shows the striking effect produced by casting the electric light over the western side of Paris, behind Mont Valérien, which rises darkly frowning in the middle of this view. We present, on the same page, a group of the French prisoners who surrendered at Metz, belonging to the Garde Impériale, who had fought victoriously in the Crimean and Italian wars. The grenadier will be recognised by his tall bearskin cap; the Zouaves by their Moorish fez, sash, and loose trousers, to the right-hand side of our Engraving; next to these stand a dismounted cuirassier, wrapped in his cloak, a chasseur-à-pied, and an artilleryman; to the left is one of the Guides, with a weeping cantinière of the Voltigeurs. The remaining war sketches engraved this week are from our Special Artist lately at Lyons, showing the preparations for the defence of that city in the expected siege. The storing of rice and flour in the Church of St. Nizier and in the theatre of the Casino

des Arts, and the manufacture of bullets for the chassepot rifles, were operations carried on with great energy during his sojourn there. The bronze statue of Napoleon I., erected to the honour of the Empire and its Marshals, in the Place Napoléon, at Lyons, was, at the same time, removed in disgrace. The quarter inhabited by the weavers, who are mostly violent Republicans, in another part of the city, has many steep and narrow streets, like that shown in the view here presented.

The annual distribution of prizes by Miss Burdett Coutts to the pupils of the Whitelands Institution, Chelsea, took place yesterday week. Miss Coutts was assisted by Archdeacon Sinclair. There was a good attendance of pupils. Miss Burdett Coutts, in presenting the prizes (which were given for proficiency and knowledge of domestic economy), expressed her regret at the unavoidable absence of Princess Mary of Cambridge, who had fully intended to be present.



PREPARING FOR THE PANTOMIME.



SCENE FROM "THE VICAR OF WAKEFIELD," AT THE STANDARD THEATRE.

PREPARING FOR THE PANTOMIME.

We do not mean that "Gathering for the Pantomime," designed by Alfred Crowquill's inventive fancy and sketched by his pencil, which is to appear next week in our Christmas Number, accompanied by the allegorical history of Chancery and Fairyland, showing how the supernatural inhabitants of those dreamy regions come to figure in the Christmas play. The illustration of "Preparing for the Pantomime," which has been engraved for the present Number, is of a more realistic character, and represents what may be supposed to be an actual scene at this time of the year in the artistic workshop attached to one of our London theatres, not a hundred miles from Drury Lane. It may be a true proverb that "the cowl doesn't make the monk;" but the mask does make the monster, when a human performer acts the portentous part. The moulder or painter of grotesque masks should be gifted with imagination and humour in a high degree, as well as great knowledge of the effects produced at a certain distance, by particular combinations of shapes and strong colours, under a glaring artificial light. His memory should be fully stored with the details of forcible physiognomy and antiquated or barbarian costume gathered from pictures of mankind in all nations of the world and in all ages of history or romance; his business is to see how these may be used in the queerest fresh combinations. So will he be competent to assist the representation of the dramatist's comparatively vague conceptions in the production of a Christmas or Easter piece—a Burlesque Extravaganza, the nature of which is sufficiently defined, whether or not it runs into the conventional pantomime from its closing act. The old and the young artist, not mere artificers whom we find here at their task in the studio, deserve the thanks of all parents and kind people desiring to secure an evening's innocent pleasure for their party of children between Boxing Night and Twelfth Night, or as soon afterwards as other engagements of the season permit. We heartily wish they may enjoy it, as we intend ourselves to do, in spite of wars and rumours of wars and the general botheration of these times.

A SCENE FROM "THE VICAR OF WAKEFIELD."

The version of Goldsmith's popular novel produced at the National Standard does great credit to the adapter, whose skill in stage-construction has been well tried. The incident presented in our illustration has become a common spectacle at most of the West-End theatres, and has been resorted to more than once by Mr. Boucicault to aid in the success of an otherwise uninteresting plot. But in this case the incident is contained in the novel, and was therefore inevitable in the drama. We here see the worthy Vicar engaged in the rescue of his children from the burning edifice. The scene is well placed on the stage, and is sufficiently exciting.

"TAMING OF THE SHREW."

We have already commented on this picture by Mr. Orchardson in our critical column, and it only remains to recall, by way of illustration, a passage or two from Shakespeare's comedy which the artist may probably have had more directly in view. The situation, we may suppose, is that of Petruchio's first interview with Katherine in the second act. By a nice dramatic touch, the painter seems to indicate that Katherine having taken her seat on entering, Petruchio had also taken a seat at her side, in the most provokingly free-and-easy, nonchalant attitude he could assume; whereupon the shrew springs up in a fury, upsetting her chair, and turns towards him like the "wild cat" she is described to be. The opening scene of the interview gives a clue to the whole process of "taming;" Petruchio welcoming the shrew with a familiar

Good-morrow, Kate; for that's your name, I hear.
 Kath. Well have you heard, but something hard of hearing;
 They call me Katherine, that do talk of me.
 Pet. You lie, in faith; for you are called plain Kate,
 And bonny Kate, and sometimes Kate the curst;
 But Kate, the prettiest Kate in Christendom,
 Kate # Kate Hall, my super-dainty Kate,
 For dainties are all cats, and therefore, Kate,
 Take this of me, Kate, of my consolation;
 Hearing thy mildness praised in every town,
 Thy virtuous spoke of, and thy beauty sounded
 (Yet not so deeply as to thee belongs),
 Myself am mov'd to woo thee for my wife.
 Kath. Mov'd! in good time: let him, that mov'd you hither,
 Remove you hence. I knew you at the first,
 You were a movable.

Pet. Why, what's a movable?

Kath. A joint-stool.

Pet. Thou hast hit it: come sit on me.

Continuing in the same strain, we probably arrive at the exact incident of the picture, where Kate is about to strike her suitor. After she has done so, he swears that he will cuff her if she strikes again. And then the dialogue proceeds with not less of acrimony on the one side, or of irony on the other.

Pet. I find you passing gentle.
 'Twas told me you were rough, and coy, and sullen,
 And now I find report a very liar;
 For thou art pleasant, gamester, passing courteous;
 But slow in speech, yet sweet as spring-time flowers;
 Thou canst not frown, thou canst not look askance,
 Nor bite the lip, as angry wenches will;
 Nor hast thou pleasure to be cross in talk;
 But thou with mildness entertain'st thy wooers,
 With gentle conference, soft and affable.

The shrew-tamer concludes:—

Pet. * * * setting all this chat aside,
 Thus in plain terms:—Your father hath consented
 That you shall be my wife; your dowry 'greed on;
 And will you, nil you, I will marry you.
 Now, Kate, I am a husband for your turn;
 For, by this light, whereby I see thy beauty
 (Thy beauty that doth make me like thee well),
 Thou must be married to no man but me;
 For I am he am born to tame you, Kate,
 And bring you from a wild cat to a Kate,
 Conformable as other household Kates.
 Here comes your father; never make denial,
 I must and will have Katherine to my wife.

THE SMITHFIELD CLUB CATTLE SHOW.

A short account was given last week of the seventy-second annual show of cattle, sheep, and pigs, under the direction of the Smithfield Club, held in the Agricultural Hall, Islington. We now present four illustrations of prize oxen. The best ox in all the classes was the animal which appears standing in front in the upper part of our Engraving; No. 18 in the catalogue, shown by Mr. W. Taylor, of Glynley, Westham, Sussex. He was four years and six months of age; his dam Polly, his sire Royal Duke. He was bred by Mr. R. Stranger, of Court Barton, Northampton, Devon; was fed on hay, roots, cake, and meal; and gained the first prize, of £30, in class 3—that of Devon steers or oxen between three and four years old. After the exhibition he was purchased by Mr. Carr, of the Dining-rooms at St. Clement's, Strand, for £70. The Devon heifer behind him is No. 29, one shown by Mr. Trevor Lee, sen., of Broughton House, Aylesbury, and bred by Mr. C. Gibbs, Bishops' Lydiard, Somerset; two years and six months old. Of the two animals represented below, the one in front is No.

211, a roan steer of the shorthorn race, which was exhibited among extra stock, and obtained the champion prize of £100 as the very best animal in the entire show. He had before won six prizes at Birmingham and a cup at Oakham. He was bred and exhibited by Mr. T. Pulver, of Kettering, Northampton, and was three years and nine months old. The one behind this is No. 91, a prize ox, shown by Mr. Joseph Stratton, of Marlborough, Wiltshire, aged three years and eight months.

THE CRYSTAL PALACE POULTRY SHOW.

The show of poultry and pigeons at the Crystal Palace, from Wednesday to Saturday of last week, has been noticed briefly; we now give some illustrations of a few of the prize birds. At the top of our page Engraving are three groups of ducks—the white Aylesburys shown by Mrs. Hollis, the Rouen ducks of Mr. Patton, and the Carolines sent by Mr. S. Burns. Each of these won a first prize in its class. The pigeons in the middle are Mr. Volckman's blue pouter, Mr. Parkins Jones's pair of blue fantails, and Mr. Gresham's black pied pouter, each of which gained a silver cup as a first prize. Below these are the prize fowls—a light Braham shown by Mr. F. Crook, and a pair of buff Cochins exhibited by Mr. W. A. Taylor; these also won first prizes in silver-cup form. The poultry were placed in the terrace dining-room, and the pigeons in the south transept. The prize birds were sold by auction, but reserved prices were fixed by their owners.

THE SPANISH DEPUTATION AT FLORENCE.

An illustration appears on another page of the scene upon the Lung' Arno Corsini, a part of the riverside terrace in the city of Florence, on Saturday, the 4th inst., when the deputation from the Spanish Constituent Cortes, with their official attendants, numbering more than a hundred persons, arrived to offer the Royal Crown of Spain to Prince Amadeus of Savoy, Duca d'Aosta, second son of King Victor Emmanuel of Italy. Their reception at the railway was attended by the civil and military authorities, and a salute was fired. The route taken by the deputation on leaving the station was lined by troops and National Guards, and hung with the flags of Spain, Italy, and France. On the next day, Sunday, the deputation officially tendered the crown to the Duke, who accepted it, and delivered a very effective speech. He will immediately go to Spain, all conditions having been satisfactorily arranged.

POST-OFFICE NOTICES.

Letters addressed to Portugal posted in or reaching London on the 7th and 8th, or on the morning of the 9th of the month, will be forwarded by the packets of the Royal Mail Steam-Ship Company on the Brazil line. Letters posted in or reaching Liverpool on the 12th and 13th, or on the 28th and 29th, will be forwarded by the packets of the Pacific Steam Navigation Company, except that when the 13th or 29th falls on Sunday the packets leave Liverpool on the 12th or 28th. On all other days than those above mentioned letters will be forwarded, as a rule, in the mails via France.

Mails for the Bahamas will be dispatched from London on the evening of every alternate Thursday, and supplementary mails will also be forwarded on the evening of the following Saturday.

At the request of the Government of Queensland, no letters or other correspondence addressed to that colony will, until further notice, be forwarded by the route of San Francisco and New Zealand.

The next mails for Australia will be dispatched from London via Southampton, on the morning of Dec. 24; via Brindisi on the evening of Dec. 30.

AWFUL EXPLOSION NEAR BIRMINGHAM.

There has been another dreadful explosion near Birmingham. It took place between twelve and one yesterday week, at the cartridge factory of Messrs. Ludlow, situate at Witton, close to Messrs. Kynoch's factory, where the late explosions occurred. The scene is a range of nineteen sheds, situate in a large field between Aston and Perry Bar, where about 500 hands, chiefly women and girls, were employed in making and priming cartridges. Three of the sheds, in which about one hundred persons were employed, were entirely destroyed. There appear to have been three explosions. The first is supposed to have occurred in a shed where the cartridges are made, and to have been caused by the accidental ignition of a woman's apron as she stood warming herself at a stove. The sheet of flame resulting from this explosion set on fire the two nearest sheds, which stood about fifteen yards off. All three were completely wrecked, and the remainder more or less shattered by the concussion. The result was that seventeen persons were killed on the spot and fifty-three others so severely injured that they had to be conveyed to the hospital, where several have since died. The field in the vicinity of the explosion was strewn with the mutilated remains of human bodies, many of the dead being defaced beyond recognition.

Five out of the seventeen bodies have been identified—namely, those of Harriet Smith, 16; Selina Bullivant, 27; Maria Brown, 23 (married); Amelia Woodman, 39 (married); Mary Owen, 18 (married); and Jane Ward, 14. These were the least disfigured corpses, but even in their cases the features were entirely obliterated, and the only clue to their identity was some ornament or fragment of apparel. One of the first bodies identified was that of Harriet Smith, who was recognised solely by one of her boots and a button of her dress. Another body was claimed by three persons, one being the supposed husband of the deceased, whose claim, however, was overruled. Another was identified by a piece of flannel round her throat, and another by a ring of peculiar form. But the great majority of attempts at identification were futile, and the sorrowing survivors had to depart without even the melancholy satisfaction of claiming the remains of their relatives. One man who had lost both a wife and a daughter contrived to identify the former by means of a belt she wore, but the daughter's body was not distinguishable.

Mr. Sotheron-Estcourt has presented to the Devises Corporation a site for the establishment of a cottage hospital.

The committee of management at Oxford for the exhibition and sale of pictures in aid of the distressed French peasantry announce that, after paying all expenses, the sum realised amounts to £165.

A railway accident, by which twelve persons were killed and about twenty others injured, occurred on Monday evening, on the Manchester, Sheffield, and Lincolnshire line, at Stairfoot, near Barnsley. The accident was caused by a number of waggons becoming detached from the other portion of a goods-train, running down a steep incline, and coming into collision with a passenger-train standing in the station.

OBITUARY OF EMINENT PERSONS.

THE MARQUIS OF HEADFORT.

The Most Honourable Thomas Taylour, Marquis of Headfort, Earl of Bective, and Viscount and Baron Headfort in the Peerage of Ireland, Baron Kenlis in the Peerage of the United Kingdom, and a Baronet of Ireland; a Knight of the Most Illustrious Order of St. Patrick, Lord Lieutenant and Custos Rotulorum of the county of Cavan, Colonel of the Royal Meath Militia, and a member of the Privy Council, died, on the 6th inst., at his beautiful residence near Kells. His Lordship was born May 4, 1787, the elder son of Thomas, first Marquis of Headfort, by Mary, his wife, only daughter and heiress of George Quin, Esq., of Quinsborough, in the county of Clare, and grandson of Thomas, first Earl of Bective, who was one of the Founder-Knights of the Order of St. Patrick. The noble family of Taylour, originally from Sussex, was established in Ireland, during the Commonwealth, by Thomas Taylour, the friend and college companion of Sir William Petty, and the associate of that distinguished man in the compilation of the Down Survey. Lord Headfort, whose death we record, was educated at Trinity College, Cambridge, where he graduated M.A. in 1811. In 1829 he succeeded his father as second Marquis, and in 1831 was created a Peer of the United Kingdom. From 1837 to 1841 he was one of the Lords in Waiting on her Majesty, under Lord Melbourne's Administration, and during his lengthened career was a firm and consistent Liberal. His Lordship married, first, Jan. 29, 1822, Olivia, daughter of Sir John Stevenson, and widow of Edward Tuite Dalton, Esq.; and, secondly, Feb. 5, 1853, Frances, widow of Sir William Hay Macnaghten, Bart., and second daughter of John Livingstone Martyn, Esq. By his first wife (who died July 21, 1834) he had issue three sons and three daughters. Of the former, the eldest, Thomas, Earl of Bective, M.P. for Westmorland, succeeds as third Marquis of Headfort. He was born Nov. 1, 1822; and married, July 20, 1842, Emilia, only child of William Thompson, Esq., M.P., of Underley Hall, by whom (who died in 1864) he has a son, Thomas, Lord Kenlis, now Earl of Bective, and four surviving daughters.

LORD BYRON.

The Right Hon. George Anson eighth Lord Byron, died at Thrumpton Hall, Notts, on the 28th ult., after a protracted illness. His Lordship was born June 30, 1818, the eldest son of George Anson, seventh Lord, by Elizabeth Mary, his wife, daughter of the late Sacheverell Chandos-Pole, Esq., of Radborne. He served for some years in the 19th Regiment, but retired as Captain in 1843. He married, Aug. 3, 1843, Lucy Elizabeth Jane, eldest daughter of the late Rev. William Wescomb, Rector of Langford, Essex, but leaves no issue. Consequently, the ancient Barony of Byron, to which the poetic genius of the sixth Lord has given such universal celebrity, devolves on the deceased Peer's nephew (the son of his brother, the late Hon. Frederick Byron), who becomes ninth Lord Byron.

SIR E. H. GRIFFIES-WILLIAMS, BART.

The Rev. Sir Erasmus Henry Griffies-Williams, second Baronet, of Llwynywormwood, in the county of Carmarthen, Chancellor of St. David's, and Rector of Rushall, Wilts, died, at Llandovery, on the 30th ult. He was born in the year 1794, the second son of George Griffies, Esq., of Llwynywormwood, who assumed the additional surname of Williams and was created a Baronet in 1815. Sir Erasmus was educated at Eton, and St. John's College, Cambridge; graduated in 1818, and took the degree of M.A. in 1824. He was patron of one living, and a magistrate for the counties of Berks, Brecon, Carmarthen, Pembroke, and Wilts. For some years he held the Rectory of St. Peter's, Marlborough, in the last-named county. He married, in 1819, Caroline, only daughter of Henry Griffies, Esq., of Beaumont Lodge, Windsor, and by her, who died on Dec. 31, 1866, had two daughters, Caroline Louisa, married, in 1847, to William Mawdley Savage, Esq., of Norton House, in the county of Somerset; and Juliana, married, in 1849, to Thomas Graves Sawle, Esq. Dying thus without male issue, he is succeeded in the baronetcy, to which he had himself succeeded March 28, 1843, by his brother, now Sir Watkin Lewes Griffies-Williams, third Baronet, a General in the Indian army.

LIEUT.-COLONEL H. K. ERSKINE, OF PITTODRIE.

Henry Knight-Erskine, Esq., of Pittodrie, Lieutenant-Colonel of the Aberdeenshire Militia, and Lieutenant-Colonel of the 1st Battalion of Rifle Volunteers of the city of Aberdeen, whose sudden death at Aberdeen is announced, was born in 1813. The family of Erskine of Pittodrie descends from Sir Thomas Erskine, Secretary to King James V., who exchanged the Lordships of Brechin and Navar, in Forfarshire, with his cousin, Lord Erskine, for lands in Aberdeenshire, on which he settled. Eighth in descent from him was Thomas Erskine of Pittodrie, who, dying in 1754, left, by his wife, the Hon. Anne Forbes, daughter of James, fifteenth Lord Forbes, an only child, Mary Erskine, heiress of Pittodrie, who married Colonel Henry Knight (of the Knights of Barrels, in the county of Warwick). Their eldest surviving son was Colonel William Howe Knight-Erskine, of Pittodrie, C.B., who died in 1844, having married Grace, daughter of Captain James Normand, by whom he was father of Henry Knight-Erskine, Esq., the subject of this notice; and of James, late Captain in the 33rd Regiment, who married a daughter of Sir James Anderson.

In addressing a meeting at St. Pancras Vestry Hall, on Monday night, to support the establishment of schools in Camden Town for daughters of the middle classes, Lord Lyttelton, who presided, made a few observations on the general question of the education of girls. Expressing much sympathy with those who believe improvements requisite, he was of opinion that it is a doubtful question whether there is not, intellectually and morally, more equality between the sexes than we have been in the habit of thinking. Though he could not agree that American experience had proved the mental capacity of women and men to be the same, yet he believed that much more may be done by the gentler sex than has hitherto been thought possible. That the public mind was tending in this direction was clearly shown by the election of two ladies to the Metropolitan School Board. It could not be supposed that on so great a question, affecting such important interests, natural gallantry influenced the result. On the contrary, he believed that Miss Davies and Miss Garrett were fitted for the duty imposed upon them. Contenting himself, however, with the tentative and experimental stage in speaking of those subjects, he was not certain how far these enlarged occupations would be found suitable for women at large; but he did not see how it was possible to resist the argument that fair and full experiment must be made to admit them to a great many branches of industry in this country which have hitherto been monopolised by men. Resolutions in favour of the proposed schools, which are to be on a similar plan to the middle-class schools for boys in the City, and are to be conducted by Miss Buss, were advocated by the Rev. A. Thorold, Vicar of St. Pancras, and other speakers, and passed.

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